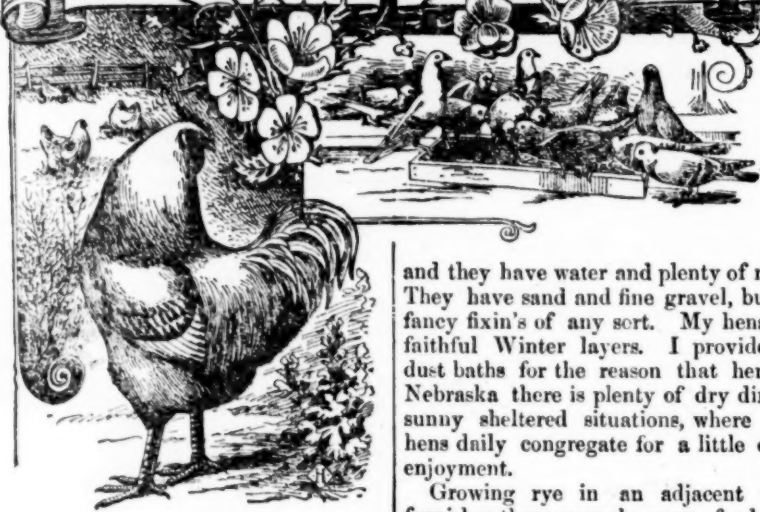


readily prepared as coffee, and is wholesome and palatable beverage. Besides this, the leaves have considerable storage value; and in France and Belgium the plants are forced and blanched like celery, and extensively used for salads and "greens." A Belgian variety, called the "Witloof" is the favorite for this purpose.

POULTRY PIGEONS & PET-STOCK



NEBRASKA POULTRY.

Bright Ideas from a Very Practical Woman.

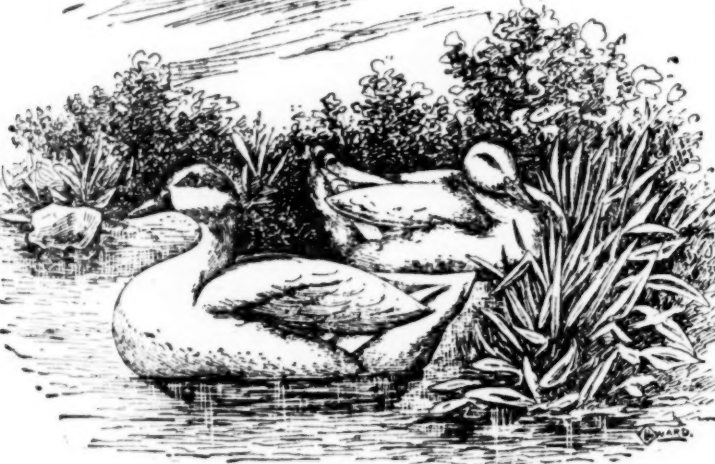
BY MRS. HARRY TAPPAN, NEBRASKA.

Circumstances prevented me from taking part in your recent prize competition. The papers were excellent, and I was pleased to think that all prizes were taken by women. Poultry raising is essentially woman's work. Poultry fanciers of the male gender are plentiful enough, to be sure, but on the farm, where poultry raising is always practiced to some extent, the labor and pleasure of caring for the chickens devolves upon the women. For my part I delight in the work and appreciate the pleasure and reward it brings. I would not let the "good man" see to the hens even if he wished; though, we go "smoking" on the proceeds; he furnishes the feed, you know.

Just now I am culling out my surplus stock. All early moulted hens and early-hatched pullets will be retained for winter layers. The others, with the males not desired for breeding purposes, will be disposed of. There is no profit in keeping hens that moult late. The later a hen discards her coat the longer it will take her to put it on again. Hens that moult early pass quickly and easily through this trying ordeal and after a short recuperation of spent strength and vigor begin laying and keep right on; under favorable conditions they will lay all through the cold winter months. My May pullets have been laying for some time now.

I started out to tell you how I manage to make poultry pay, so I will have to begin at the beginning—i.e., with the newly-hatched chicks, for once the latter become stunted and their vitality impaired, much is lost both as to size and profitability. For the first day or two the little chicks are fed upon hard-boiled egg mixed with oatmeal or cornmeal into a crumbly mass. As soon as they can well they are given, instead of egg, coarsely-ground oats, corn and millet; in fact, anything that I happen to have, including cheese made from sour milk, which is fed sparingly until the little fellows have become accustomed to it, else bowel trouble may result. As they grow older I alternate dry food and whole grain with meal moistened with milk or water. Cracked wheat, corn and oats, and fresh water or milk are kept in large lath coops where the chicks have free access to it at all times. It is astonishing how they grow.

I get ahead of lice on chicks in this



AYLESBURY DUCKS.

Way: When the hen has grown accustomed to the nest I dust her and the nest thoroughly with rough on rats or some good insect powder. A few days before hatching time I dust her again, and as the result the young brood leave the nest as clean as from an incubator and with a good chance of holding their own.

My poultry house is a simple affair; it is 12 feet square, with good roof, tight sides, and a floor. The south end contains a door and a large window. This house is rendered comfortable by banking it up to under the eave troughs with straw. A sort of framework holds the straw and prevents it from slipping away. This house is cold enough for health and warm enough for comfort. It is not ventilated, but is made as snug as possible.

For breakfast the hens have a warm mess of refuse vegetables, table scraps and oats, all boiled together and seasoned with salt and red pepper, and mixed up dry with bran or meal. They eat from clean boards which are removed afterward, and the floor is covered with straw.

On pleasant days Mrs. Bidly is expected to bustle for her own dinner. In inclement weather they are kept housed and dry grain, preferably cracked, is scattered in the straw. Whenever the house is visited it is well to scatter a little grain about. This affords the hens abundant exercise in hunting for it among the litter. At night they get all the corn, warm from the oven, that they can eat,

and they have water and plenty of milk. They have sand and fine gravel, but no fancy fixins of any sort. My hens are faithful winter layers. I provide no dust baths for the reason that here in Nebraska there is plenty of dry dirt in sunny sheltered situations, where the hens daily congregate for a little quiet enjoyment.

Growing rye in an adjacent field furnishes them enough green food. A hen will not grow too fat even when liberally fed, if given plenty of scratching to do. My hens are healthy. Cholera is almost unknown. Roup is prevented by rendering the poultry house tight and dry.

I had but two roosters last season and over 100 hens, and eggs never hatched better for me. The chicks were strong and vigorous and I did not lose one from disease. My chickens are hatched during April and May. I never bother with late chickens, except those wanted for the table. I always watch for the destructive red mite, and upon his first approach he is met with a pail of hot whitewash and a brush in the hands of a strong man. The whitewash is made further disagreeable to the health of Mr. Mite by adding a liberal allowance of carbolic acid. It is seldom that a second application is required in a season. The poultry house is kept reasonably clean at all times.

Incidentally, I want to mention another remedy for the destruction of lice on fowls. Dip 'em. Make a weakened solution of kerosene emulsion and immerse them, all but eyes and ears. This possesses the virtue of penetrating to every feather, killing every louse and every mite. It is quickly accomplished, and if a warm day is chosen for the work, the hens will scarcely mind it and no evil results will follow.

More About Lice.

BY GEORGE L. HAMILTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

The extermination and prevention of lice is one of the most important topics concerning poultry raising. Having found this out from experience, I will endeavor to describe, briefly, methods which I know, if followed, will prove eminently successful, and allay all trouble from that source.

To begin with prevention, we first must begin in the construction of our poultry houses. The houses should be constructed, if possible, entirely of yellow pine and sassafras woods, as lice will not stay on these varieties, owing to the pungency of either. The siding, flooring, etc., should be constructed of yellow pine, while the studding, joists, sills, etc., may be of either. For roofing, tin gives the best satisfaction. Right here I would say, use the best quality obtainable and save the annoyance of re-roofing. Where tin cannot be obtained, use the best yellow pine shingles. I prefer tin, as in warm weather the houses cool quicker at night, and there is less danger from suffocation, and also because the lice will not adhere to it. The rafters may be

either pine or sassafras, but sassafras will give best results. The roosts should be sassafras poles two or three inches in diameter, with the bark left on; they should be always constructed on the suspensory plan, and never nailed to the sides of the building; they may be suspended from the joists above, as the roosting apartment should never be ceiled. All steps and walking-planes accessory to the roosts should be of sassafras. Nests should be constructed of yellow pine, and roomy enough to be comfortable to the hen, but not too large. The nest properly should be of oat straw, as lice will not breed so readily in it, and they should be cleaned and new straw added every eight or ten weeks.

Now, having constructed our house, we must further proceed to insure prevention in case it should be necessary. The interior should be whitewashed at least twice a year (in the Spring and Autumn), as it will not only serve as a preventive but promote the health of the fowls; the exterior may be painted or whitewashed at your pleasure. If a chimney is built in connection (but I prefer just a pipe flue) the mortar cracks, etc., should be thoroughly drenched with a solution of carbolic acid, preferable to kerosene, lessening the danger of fire.

If a house is constructed as I have recommended, there is really very little preventive needed. The windows may be of glass (always putied) in yellow pine sash. Such a house is expensive, you may say. Friends, is not an expensive success to be preferred to an inexpensive failure? I think so. Once a week you should scatter about a small bucket of lime. Every day place plenty of ashes and dust for the fowls about the roosts. The manure should be removed every two weeks, and if lime has been placed or scattered over it, it will be dry and easier handled.

Extermination is the most troublesome. Now here are a few satisfactory remedies: Thoroughly clean both fowls and houses. The houses should be thoroughly renovated; tear down and burn all roosts, nests, etc., by first anointing with kerosene and then applying the match; remove all filth, manure, etc., to a safe distance and leave exposed to the weather; pour kerosene or carbolic acid in all

cracks and fissures, or anywhere lice are apt to congregate; scatter plenty of fresh lime and ashes over the floor of the building. It should be closed tight and thoroughly fumigated by burning sulphur, first, of course, excluding the fowls. Substitute new nests, roosts, etc., and your house will be free from the pest.

How to clean the fowls: They will clean themselves if given time, but in the meanwhile you may get lice back in your house. A simple and effective remedy is this: Make a strong solution of asafetida dissolved in luke-warm water and bathe or dip your fowls. Do not be afraid, for water will not hurt them if it is tepid and the weather is warm. For head lice, grease with camphor and lard, and you will have clean fowls. Adult fowls are not much affected with head lice, but all young fowls are, more or less. The bath in asafetida water will quickly exterminate all body lice.

I am not perfect nor too old to learn, but will say our poultry have no lice.

Value of Green Cut Bone for Poultry. It has been proved that green cut bone will often increase the egg yield from 50 to 100 per cent.; it also will stimulate the fowls during the moulting period to such an extent that the flocks do not suffer as formerly in this trying time. The juices and gristle in the fresh bone contain, in a digestible form, large quantities of nitrogen, which is absolutely demanded in forming the new quills and new feathers; therefore, in moulting, when fresh bones are fed, is drawn from the food given to the fowl instead of being drawn from the reserve force of the fowl, which takes her strength, stops her from laying, and makes her prone to disease.

We are sure that the practical and economical farmer or poultryman of today, who looks well at cost, will utilize a material for poultry which brings in the end the greatest profit. We have used the granulated bone and paid a good price for it, but by using a bone cutter we got meat, gristle, oil, fat, fine bone and granulated bone all in one operation. The sharp, hard pieces of bone act as grit. The fine bone helps to make the shell, and the other half or two-thirds of ordinary market bones is rich, nourishing food, forming the feathers and flesh of the fowl, and the interior of the egg in abundance. We advise all our readers to look carefully into these new methods of feeding, as they come up, and understand them for themselves.—Poultry Keeper.

Good Advice.

EDITOR POULTRY DEPARTMENT:

Poultry is becoming a business of pleasure and profit for many persons of small means. A few years ago farmers would keep hens as a part of the pursuits of farming, and an open shed usually sheltered the feathered flock from the cold storms of winter. Small returns were the results, but now poultry is coming to the front, and farmers are taking more interest in the business, by providing better quarters, better care, better feed, and as a result better hens, better profits, better farmers and better farming. Away with old-styled poultry keeping, with a flock of hens so mixed that every hen wore a different plumage. Assorted colors will do for a flower garden, but not for poultry. A yard of White Leghorns is indeed a handsome sight. A nest full of large, white eggs adds beauty to the situation, but, like the hen of old, hide their nest, if not confined to the house and yard, and these nests must be found before the eggs are spoiled; nothing injures a poultryman's reputation in market so much as spoiled eggs. I have seen men marked in market as sellers of bad eggs. Customers can't be cheated more than once, and when one is cheated he spreads the news and soon people learn to mark the retailer of bad articles and shun him.

The Leghorns are first in rank as layers, but I would say the Plymouth Rocks take the lead for a market breed.

Emerson says that the measure of civilization is not to be found in raising fat cattle, fast horses, big vegetables, but in the quality of the men and women it develops.

Fresh Market Bones.

As food for poultry nothing is now prized more highly among progressive poultrymen than perfectly fresh market bones, cut up each day, in addition to the usual food ration. This elegant food supplies nearly, if not every, element of the complete egg, as well as the formation of bone, muscle and feathers of growing chicken. Fresh bones from

the market cost but a trifle. They should be obtained fresh each day. Their value is due to the perfectly fresh animal food which they contain, along with the other elements not found in sufficient quantities in corn and wheat.

Turkey Raising.

BY JOHN C. SNYDER, KANSAS.

You may induce turkeys to roost in the hen house with the hens by driving them in a few nights, yet they will be all right roosting in trees or on the farm buildings during the Summer. They seem inclined that way.

If the season opens early they will mate and begin laying in March; sometimes not until May. You want to be ready for them by having nests, made of boxes and barrels, in fence corners and out-of-the-way places. They will often lay in the hens' nests, but are very shy, and no one should go near them when they are seen to be hunting their nests. The eggs can be removed, but hen eggs must be placed in the nest in place of the ones removed; then when they are ready to set, if in a good place, the turkey eggs can be given them, or the eggs can be placed under chicken hens, and the turkey hen shut up for a few days, when she will forget her desire to sit and will soon begin laying. The second laying of eggs should be given to the turkey hen to hatch and rear the young.

If you raise with chicken hens you must have a good coop ready for them. When you take the hen and turks off the nest dust good with insect powder. We would feed Dutch cheese or bread and milk pressed rather dry; this should be the main food for a week or two. Each pleasant day the hen should be allowed to run with the young turks in the front yard among the grass. Insects are the natural food for the young, and if allowed their liberty, when the grass is dry, they will do well; but they should be looked after, as the chickens are apt to bother them for a while, until they get used to them; they must be kept shut up early and late, as the common hen mother is liable to run them about too much, and they might stray away into the hog lot, or wander off with other hens, as they are slow at learning the cluck of their not natural mother.

We know some women who can raise every turkey hatched, and again others who can raise but a very small per cent.; there are little details to look after which some persons seem born to know. Of course, we see this demonstrated in all callings in life. Some women can make good bread at all times and under all circumstances, while others can follow the same directions, and their bread will not be fit eating for a dyspeptic. Some localities are better fitted for raising poultry than others; the ground is more sandy, more rolling and will not hold moisture or remain damp long; the poorest, most rocky and sterile farm in any neighborhood is just the place to raise poultry with success. Of course, no one expects to raise as many turkeys as chickens, and they are not so easy to raise, but with care a paying per cent. of those hatched can be raised, and with profit.

Green Cut Bone.

BY SIMON DUBST.

May be sung to the tune of Sweet Marie.

When you wed and settle down,
Sweet Marie,
In the suburbs of the town,
Sweet Marie,
Ducks and chickens you will own
And will want the best "feed" known,
Which is always Green Cut Bone,
Sweet Marie.

Green Cut Bone is the thing!
Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring!
Is the secret of success,
Sweet Marie,
It makes the poultry lay
More, and better eggs, "they say,"
Try it on your wedding day,
Sweet Marie.

Emerson says that the measure of civilization is not to be found in raising fat cattle, fast horses, big vegetables, but in the quality of the men and women it develops.

There is a controversy going on in the bee papers as to whether bees will do as well in two stories as with the same amount of room in one story. Some who have tried the tiering up of the eight frame hive prefer it to the 10 frame. One reason is that bees in 10 frame hives

are not so provident in early breeding, on account of the extra honey the hive will contain. Another reason given is that, in any size of hive containing 10 frames, after bees have six or seven frames well filled with brood, they would much rather occupy two frames directly over the seven than one at each side of the seven. They also prefer to economize heat for brooding than to warm up space at the side.

A writer in *Gleanings* gives his experience, which is entirely contrary to the foregoing: "I have been using the eight and ten frame hives side by side, half of each. I have kept record for three years, and my 10 frame hives are ahead. Three of my best 10 frame colonies gave me 100 pounds each this year; three best eight frame, only 60 pounds. The 10 frames have 10 frames full below, and the others only eight. I use half-depth frames on all my hives for extracted honey. I put them on early in the Spring, then when well started I raise them up and put sections under. This is the only method by which I can secure any honey. This has been a great year for swarming here, yet I have had only six swarms from 30 colonies by this plan." We should be glad to hear evidence from our beekeeper readers on the subject.

"How Many'll Hatch?"

Is the question that confronts the poultryman as he starts his incubator. With the Improved Victor Incubator and Brooder the answer is always the same—as many as there are fertile eggs. In an interesting and handsome catalogue recently issued by the manufacturer of these specialties, Geo. Eitel Co., Quincy, Ill., the following claims are made, which seem to be borne out by hundreds of testimonials:

The Improved Victor is the only absolutely self-regulating incubator in the market—the strongest, most nearly constructed, most easily operated and most durable.

It is the only incubator regulating itself to both extremes of temperature, from way below freezing point up to 90° or more above.

The Improved Victor Hot Water Brooder has no equal in raising the chicks after they are hatched. So warranted or no sale.

The Improved Victor Incubator and Brooder is the cheapest first-class hatching and raising outfit ever made or sold, and can be bought with perfect safety, being patented and manufactured by an old established and reliable firm. Send at once for catalogue, which can be had free, if mention is made of this paper.

Pea and Bean Weevils.

Many hundred bushels of garden peas and beans, cow peas and soja beans, will be destroyed by weevils in this State during the coming Winter, unless proper treatment be used. These weevils are two species of the genus *Bruchus*. *B. pisi*, the pea weevil, is the larger and is blackish with white spots. It attacks only garden peas, never garden beans or the cow pea, which is a true bean. The bean weevil, *B. fabae*, is a rather small, yellowish, hairy insect. This weevil never attacks garden peas, but is the greatest pest of beans and cow peas. Both species lay their eggs upon the growing pods in the field and garden. The eggs hatch in a few days and the young grub bores its way into the seed. The grub lives within the seed until it has completed its growth and become a perfect or winged insect. The pea weevil never lays her eggs upon hard or mature seeds; the bean weevil, in a warm climate like ours, grows from the egg to the winged state in about two months. The female at once lays her eggs upon the hard and mature beans or cow peas, and these in turn mature and produce other insects, and the process may continue, as many farmers know to their cost, until the whole package of beans or cow peas is consumed.

REMEDY.—The cheapest and most effective remedy for both weevils is bisulphide of carbon. It is a good plan to run the seed through a fanning mill shortly after gathering. This cleans the seed and destroys many eggs on the bean. Garden peas and beans kept for seed and cow peas should always be treated with this substance before being stored away and as soon as possible after being harvested. Place the loose seeds in a tight barrel, which should not be quite full. On top of the seeds place a saucer containing three or four tablespoonfuls of the bisulphide. Cover the barrel tightly with a cover upon which should be placed a heavy cloth of any kind except rubber or oil cloth.

The bisulphide will quickly vaporize and penetrate the entire mass of seeds, killing every grub and beetle. Allow the covered barrel to stand for 24 hours, then remove the cover and permit the fumes to escape. Never bring a light into or near the room while the fumes can be smelled, as bisulphide of carbon is very inflammable. The smell of this liquid is objectionable, but it is not lasting. The bisulphide may not kill the eggs, and to insure complete satisfaction repeat the bisulphide treatment after 30 days. Bisulphide of carbon may be ordered in quart or pint cans from any dealer in chemicals, for about 20 cents per pound. Most druggists can supply it in smaller quantities but at a higher price.—GERALD MCCARTHY, Entomologist, North Carolina Experiment Station.

Deaths from Wild Animals.

The number of deaths caused by wild animals is increasing greatly in India, snake bites heading the list last year with 21,000 victims. Of 2,800 persons who were killed by animals, tigers killed nearly 1,000; leopards, 291; wolves, 175; bears, 121, and elephants, 68. Ninety thousand head of cattle were destroyed, an increase of 9,000 over the year before. On the other hand, 15,000 wild beasts were killed, including nearly 1,300 tigers and over 4,000 leopards, besides almost 120,000 deadly snakes.

AN EASY WAY TO MAKE MONEY.

DEAR READERS—I read the Correspondents' letters. Some have wonderful success, but when I read how that young man made \$10,000 playing cards, I was not surprised. I did not believe it. Yet it looked so reasonable that I ordered an outfit from Gray & Co. Playing Works, Columbus, Ohio. When shipped, to my surprise it went to work like a little giant and I looked on. It does the best of gold, silver or nickel plating and is the greatest money maker I ever saw. Any one can get circulars by writing.

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THE APIARY.

Hummings.

Go into Winter quarters with as many young bees as possible.

To know what to do and to do it in time, after the hive is selected, is to succeed in beekeeping.

It is said that the bees of Brazil hang their combs outside on branches of trees, at the very summit, and at the ends of slender twigs, to be out of the way of monkeys, which are very fond of honey.

It has been positively settled that the queen can transmit bee-paralysis and also carry from one locality, where it may do no harm, to another, where the mischief may be great. A breeder who sells queens, should, therefore, never allow a case to remain in his yard a day after discovery.

H. Petersen, an Australian beekeeper, has about the largest yield on record. He started in Spring with 63 colonies; increased to 120, and extracted a little over 48,000 pounds of honey—an average of 750 pounds per colony, Spring count. Michigan has a beekeeper living near Evarts, who keeps nearly 350 colonies in seven different yards, and who raised over 20,000 pounds of honey this season, and who has not failed of getting a good crop for 18 years past.

The old-time fly-hole in the front of the hive is being advocated in place of the entrance at the bottom and alighting board which has been so long used. Three three-fourth inch augur holes are recommended as a good plan, and it is said by those who have tried them that the bees use these holes from choice. One advantage is that such an entrance is easily defended from robbers, and others, and it is out of the reach of toads and mice. Grass will not grow up over it, and there is no danger of clogging up with dead bees in out-door wintering.

In advising beginners, Chas. Dadant warns them against the use of small hives, which require more work, more feeding of bees for Winter and Spring, and do not give as good results as larger ones. To his mind a 10 frame Langstroth hive is not even large enough. He prefers hives containing 10 or 11 Quinby frames. These frames are larger and longer than the Langstroth, and although white clover is his only resource his crop can compete for quantity with those of beekeepers using small hives located in more prosperous districts.

STIMULATIVE FEEDING.

Advantages Proved by Results.

At the recent meeting of the North American B. K. A., Sec. Frank Benton said: I have contended for very many years that stimulative feeding is at the bottom of all success in beekeeping. But it is only with myself that I have contended—have tried to consider the matter from all standpoints and subject it to careful experiment, because there have been so many against me, some of them especially being those with whom a controversy once entered upon would be never ending. I believe that to obtain the best results it is necessary to stimulate whenever bees are not gathering honey, and yet can fly out for exercise. I would have the choicest and most prolific queens of that race. A prolific queen is the cornerstone of success. Whenever bees are not gathering honey, and the winds are raw and cold, I would still stimulate them, but this can be carried too far. Whenever in the middle of the season an important yield of honey is anticipated it is easy by stimulative feeding to get the hives crowded with bees ready for that harvest. After that it may or, according to circumstances, it may not be profitable to stimulate them. If no honey comes in for a time, so that brood-rearing ceases, and if it is still possible to rear workers in time for a Fall flow, by all means resort to stimulative feeding if the time can be found to attend to it. Or if the colonies have become reduced too much during the last honey flow, the remaining bees being mainly old ones, it will pay to stimulate.

In September we had a moderate yield (chiefly from wild asters), and just those colonies which had been stimulated occasionally during the long Summer drouth and honey dearth, stored more than the others—many of them four or five times as much. They were so much stronger in bees they could send a force into the fields. I am sure the immediate return in honey from my bees would have been greater had I not increased my colonies beyond such a number as I could have stimulated regularly during the Summer. But I have shown my faith in the future profitability of beekeeping by increasing my apiary until it numbers 140 colonies. In this connection I wish to make one other statement. I have kept bees from my childhood, and for more than 20 years have engaged in this business exclusively; my experience has, moreover, been in several different States of the Union, and in a number of foreign countries under conditions of climate and pasturage which have differed very widely from each other, having been located in tropical, again in sub-tropical, northern and Alpine regions, yet when my colonies have been in excellent condition—such as they can always be kept up to by feeding at the proper time—I never yet experienced a season when they did not gather enough to last all the season.

An Open Question.

There is a controversy going on in the bee papers as to whether bees will do as well in two stories as with the same amount of room in one story. Some who have tried the tiering up of the eight frame hive prefer it to the 10 frame. One reason is that bees in 10 frame hives

are not so provident in early breeding, on account of the extra honey the hive will contain. Another reason given is that, in any size of hive containing 10 frames, after bees have six or seven frames well filled with brood, they would much rather occupy two frames directly over the seven than one at each side of the seven. They also prefer to economize heat for brooding than to warm up space at the side.

A writer in *Gleanings* gives his experience, which is entirely contrary to the foregoing: "I have been using the eight and ten frame hives side by side, half of each. I have kept record for three years, and my 10 frame hives are ahead. Three of my best 10 frame colonies gave me 100 pounds each this year; three best eight frame, only 60 pounds. The 10 frames have 10 frames full below, and the others only eight. I use half-depth frames on all my hives for extracted honey. I put them on early in the Spring, then when well started I raise them up and put sections under. This is the only method by which I can secure any honey. This has been a great year for swarming here, yet I have had only six swarms from 30 colonies by this plan." We should be glad to hear evidence from our beekeeper readers on the subject.

"How Many'll Hatch?"

Is the question that confronts the poultryman as he starts his incubator. With the Improved Victor Incubator and Brooder the answer is always the same—as many as there are fertile eggs. In an interesting and handsome catalogue recently issued by the manufacturer of these specialties, Geo. Eitel Co., Quincy, Ill., the following claims are made, which seem to be borne out by hundreds of testimonials:

The Improved Victor is the only absolutely self-regulating incubator in the market—the strongest, most nearly constructed, most easily operated and most durable.

It is the only incubator regulating itself to both extremes of temperature, from way below freezing point up to 90° or more above.

The Improved Victor Hot Water Brooder has no equal in raising the chicks after they are hatched. So warranted or no sale.

Established - - - 1819.

75TH YEAR.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Published Monthly at Washington, D. C., and Baltimore, Md., by

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE, 50 CENTS

Write for special inducements to club members.

Advertising rates made known upon application.

Our readers will oblige us, when writing to parties advertising in this paper, if they will state that they saw the advertisement in THE AMERICAN FARMER. This is little trouble and costs nothing, but it helps us, and is information wanted by the advertiser.

When sending in subscriptions specify whether for General or Southern Editions.

Unless specially directed for the Southern Edition, all subscriptions will be entered for the General Edition.

OUR NEW CLUB OFFERS.

We have arranged to club with the *Weekly Witness* of New York. Its price is \$1 a year when taken alone. The *Witness* is a 16 page weekly paper and among its contributors Rev. Josiah Strong, D. D.; Rev. John Hall, D. D.; L. L. D.; Rev. Robert S. MacArthur, D. D.; Rev. Theo. L. Cuyler, D. D.; Rev. M. C. Lockwood, D. D., of Cincinnati; current weekly sermon by Dr. Talmage; Sunday school lesson by Dr. George F. Pentecost, etc. It is one of the strongest and most popular family newspapers published.

The *Witness* and THE AMERICAN FARMER will be sent to any address for one year postpaid for the small sum of \$1.20 for both publications.

Sabbath Reading is a 16 page weekly paper, non-political, non-sectarian, no secular news. "Determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ." Good, not good. Religious, not dull. Contains Sunday school lessons, Christian Endeavor topics, sermons, stories, live reports of city missions. Sixteen pages filled with the best Christian thought of the age. *Sabbath Reading* alone costs 50 cents a year, but we have made an arrangement with its publishers so that we can send both it and THE AMERICAN FARMER, postpaid, to any address for one year for only 75 cents.

At Home and Abroad, the leading musical monthly publication of New York City, will be sent one year, with THE AMERICAN FARMER, for \$1.10, both papers postpaid. Every number of *At Home and Abroad* contains a collection of vocal and instrumental music that could not be bought separately in sheet form in the stores for less than 70 cents. Remember, that by our arrangement 12 numbers of this publication and THE AMERICAN FARMER for a year for only \$1.10.

These offers are open to all subscribers in connection with THE AMERICAN FARMER. Neither the *Weekly Witness*, *Sabbath Reading*, nor *At Home and Abroad* can be furnished without a subscription to THE AMERICAN FARMER for one year accompanying the order.

OUR CLUBBING LIST.

The American Farmer Will be Sent in Connection With Any Other Paper or Magazine.

We will send THE AMERICAN FARMER and any other paper or magazine in the country at a reduced rate for the two. The following is a partial list of the periodicals that we club with:

Name of Periodical	Regular Price	With the American Farmer
Penny	\$1.00	\$1.25
Our Little Men and Women	1.00	1.25
Washington's Magazine	2.50	2.50
Country	1.00	1.25
The National Tribune	1.00	1.25
American Gardening	1.00	1.25
Country	1.00	1.25
The Young Sportsman	50	85
Our Illustrated Press	50	75

Almost a New York Daily.

That Democratic wonder, the New York *Weekly World*, has just changed its weekly into a twice-a-week paper, and you can now get the two papers a week for the same old price—\$1 a year.

Think of it! The news from New York right at your door fresh every three days—104 papers a year.

We have made arrangements by which we can furnish THE AMERICAN FARMER and the twice-a-week New York *World* for only \$1.15 a year. Here is the opportunity to get your own local paper and the New York *World* twice every week at extraordinarily low rates.

TO ALL TO WHOM THIS PAPER SHALL COME.

Greeting: This paper is sent you that you may have an opportunity to see it and examine it, with a view to subscribing. We ask you to compare its contents, objects, and price with those of other papers, and see if you do not come to the conclusion that you ought to have it; that you cannot afford to do without it. We can assure you that if you send in your name for one year that you will find it one of the most profitable investments that you can make.

We hope to make and keep it so interesting that you will think that every number more than repays you for the subscription price for a year. Please call your neighbor's attention to the paper.

SIGHTS AND SCENES OF THE WORLD.

Part 17. Number 17.

NUMBERS CHANGED EVERY ISSUE.

Cut this coupon out and forward it, together with

Five Two-Cent Postage Stamps,

to the Coupon Department of THE AMERICAN FARMER, and you will receive the elegant portfolio of photographs and illustrations. See our advertisement on another page.

Name

Address

CUT THIS OUT.

PRACTICE INSTEAD OF THEORY.

The way to make any business profitable is not by the exploitation of windy theories on business in general, but by careful, solicitous attention to the actual income and outgo. That which comes in must be made of more value than that which goes out. The way to make a farm pay is not by the outlining and pursuit of fanciful doctrines as to agriculture, but by constant and studios effort to make the cost of that which is sold be less than the price obtained for it.

It is the same thing with the management of the business of the great community which we call the United States. We cannot make ourselves rich by any visionary monetary schemes. No amount of talk in Congress will bring us wealth. But we can secure prosperity by following the course the French have for centuries, and the Germans have ever since they were brought together as a Nation and have had control of their own affairs. The French have always recognized that the prosperity of the country rested upon the farmers, and that unless they were making money no one else could. England, which sold manufactured goods to the rest of the world, felt that she could partially ignore the farmers, but the French never thought this. While England's competitor in many manufactures, she is pre-eminently a Nation of small farmers, and nowhere in Europe are the farmers so well off as in France. She has nothing like the natural advantages of England, yet her people are nearly as wealthy; wealth is much more evenly distributed, and nowhere is there the hideous poverty which disgraces England. The reason is that the French Government, no matter whether royal, imperial or republican, has always been extremely solicitous of the welfare of the small farmers, and neglected nothing that could promise to advance their interests. We hear very little of windy discussions of abstract economic theories in France. But everybody knows and feels that when an agricultural product is bought abroad that could be raised in France, French farmers suffer from loss of a market, and the thing ought to be stopped. When the first Napoleon found out that the most of the money sent out of the Empire was for sugar, he said very decidedly that the thing had to cease, and set his scientific men to work to find out how to raise sugar on French soil; and after years of discouragement, the magnificent success of the sugar beet was the result. So it has been with hundreds of other things. France allows no money to be paid out of the country for products that can be grown on her own acres. The country is governed in the interest of the people who live in it, and they are not fooled by specious plans for the benefit of outsiders. France is for the French, and for nobody else.

That is the way we want this country governed. We find that \$300,000,000 in gold is sent out of the United States every year for farm products which we could raise at home. No amount of theorizing, no prating of economic dogmas will ever convince us that this can be right. We believe it to be a folly that amounts to a crime. It is a sapping of the very life-blood of our prosperity. We say that any Congress which does not make an effort to stop this is guilty of the gravest dereliction of duty. Let us turn this river of gold, which fertilizes foreign fields, backward to the enrichment of our own. Let us stop uttering and listening to cloudy theories, and consider absolute, every-day facts. The plainest of these is that it is a wrong to every man in the country, and especially to the farming class, to send a dollar out of the country for a farm product that can be raised at home. This is such common common sense that it seems absurd to have to assert it. No matter how much money there may be in the country, it can never stand such an enormous drain as that of \$300,000,000 a year for farm products which its own people should raise. Money will always be scarce as long as this extravagance is allowed to continue.

ARGENTINA threatens to do to our cotton crop what she has done to wheat. She has an immense area of the finest kind of cotton land, and in Italy has an almost exhaustless reservoir of cheap labor to draw from. Our cotton planters cannot begin too early to look squarely at this alarming prospect.

MINNESOTA WANTS IMMIGRANTS.

For several years after the panic of 1873 Minnesota increased very rapidly in her farming population and secured a high class of citizens from the East. This was largely promoted by a very efficient Immigration Bureau established by the State, and which made the public well informed of the advantages of Minnesota's soil and climate. A few years ago, when the farmers began to feel that wheat-growing and some other branches were being overdone, the Immigration Bureau was abolished. Now it is proposed to re-establish it. It has been demonstrated that a great quantity of other things than wheat can be successfully raised on Minnesota soil. The total value of the farm products of the State for 1892 was over \$80,000,000. Of this, the value of the wheat was but \$23,000,000, or a little over one-fourth. Oats brought \$13,000,000; corn, \$9,334,000; barley, \$5,000,000; potatoes, \$2,710,000; flax-seed, \$3,000,000; timothy seed, \$734,000; apples, \$79,385; buckwheat, \$50,000; hay, \$16,000,000; butter, \$4,206,000; cheese, \$85,568; wool, \$152,564, etc. Besides, there were large quantities of pork, cattle, hides, grapes, tobacco, honey, maple sugar and sirup, cane sirup, poultry, eggs, strawberries, and vegetables of all kinds, produced and marketed. Only about one-third of the State is yet under cultivation, and there are unoccupied land enough to furnish farms for 1,000,000 people. The Government has several million acres in the northern portion of the State. The State has 2,000,000 acres yet of the lands given her for schools and internal improvements, and the Northern Pacific Railroad has 1,500,000 acres, which it sells at from \$3 to \$5 an acre for timber land, and at from \$4 to \$10 for prairie land. All these may be obtained on very easy terms.

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

The people of the South are finding that cheap cotton is not an unmixed evil. It has turned their attention to two important things. One is the wisdom of raising their own supplies, and the other is the advantage of small farms and thorough cultivation. Men have found that if they raised their own corn, meat, hay, wheat, oats, and sorghum, they came out ahead, though they had to sell their cotton for five cents. They have also found that with a small farm, and thorough tillage, they raised more cotton than when they went in debt for fertilizers to scatter over big fields. The average production of cotton in the South was only .347 of a bale per acre, yet many men, with no better land than others, succeeded in raising from one to two bales per acre, by careful cultivation. Quite a number of reports have reached us of raising 30 bales on 20 acres, and every one of these came from men who had "small fields well tilled."

We do not remember seeing more sense packed into a single paragraph than in the following from the Hampton (S. C.) *Guardian*:

As long as a pound of cotton would buy a pound of bacon there was a slight excuse for planting cotton so extensively; but now, when it takes two pounds of cotton to buy one of bacon, it does seem that more attention ought to be bestowed on corn and hog producing.

A DEPRECIATED CURRENCY comes in to help aggravate the question of cheap wheat. Argentina has a paper currency, of which it takes \$2.50 to buy a dollar in gold. The English dealers use this money to buy wheat with, and of course the farmer gets the short end of the lever. When he sells his wheat for 70 cents a bushel in paper, he really only gets 25 cents in gold for it, and as the buyer can lay the grain down in Liverpool for another 25 cents, the price of wheat all over the world goes down to the 50 cent price.

The high and constantly-rising price of camphor has turned the attention of many Californians to the practicability of raising that nerve soother and basis for celluloid. Camphor that once sold for 10 cents a pound now brings \$1. We import 2,000,000 pounds a year, valued at \$425,000. The camphor tree grows very finely in California, where it is valued as an ornamental tree. The most of our camphor comes from the Island of Formosa, which lies in the same latitude as the southern part of the United States.

If you will raise wheat try to produce double the amount on the same area. This is the only way to make a profit out of the business. It costs nearly as much to raise 15 bushels to the acre as

50, and you are working for nothing or less than nothing with the smaller crop.

NONE of the flatulent talkers on the money question seems to have grasped the fundamental idea that the best and surest way of making money more plentiful is to stop sending out \$300,000,000 in gold every year for products that we should raise at home.

It is very pleasant to read about increased exportations of our farm products, but still more pleasant to read about success in producing at home an increased amount of the \$300,000,000 worth of agricultural products that we buy abroad every year. The first means apparent small gains for our farmers, with bigger ones for the railroads, steamships, and middlemen, while the second means larger gains for the farmers, the retention of our gold at home, and general benefit to the whole country.

Christmas Carol.

BY BISHOP PHILLIPS BROWN.

The Earth has grown old with its burden of care.

But Christmas it always is young;

And the heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair.

And its soul full of music bursts forth on the air.

When the song of the angels is sung.

It is coming, Old Earth, it is coming to-night!

On the snowflakes which cover thy sod;

The feet of the Christ child shall gentle and white.

And the voice of the Christ child shall tell us with delight.

That mankind are the children of God.

On the sad and the lonely, the wretched and poor.

That voice of the Christ child shall fall.

And to every blind wanderer open the door.

Oh a home that he dare not dream of before.

With a sunshine of welcome for all.

The feet of the humblest may walk in the field.

Where the feet of the holiest have trod;

This, this is the miracle to mortals revealed.

Where the silvery trumpets of Christmas have pealed.

That mankind are the children of God.

PERSONAL.

The National Grange is called upon to mourn the loss of one of its most valued members, Sister H. H. Woodman, of Michigan, wife of Hon. J. J. Woodman, of the Executive Committee. She died Nov. 4.

Jas. Gray and George Wilson, the latter a Justice of the Peace, of Burlington, Ind., made a sad mistake last month. They had taken in more whiskey than was good for them, and as they passed along the road, they saw an old farmer husking corn. It occurred to them that it would be lots of fun to give him a sound thrashing with their whips. They didn't know the man, but the idea originated through pure curiosity. They proceeded to carry out the brilliant idea. The old farmer proved to be George Dill, a prominent man in that region, and he gave the villains the worst thrashing known in the history of the country. Squire Gray's jaw was broken in three places and soon both lay vanquished at his feet. Dill then picked up the unconscious forms of the men, threw them in the wagon, and gave the horse a cut and started them home. Wilson will recover, but the physicians say Squire Gray can live but a short time. He was injured internally.

GET UP CLUBS.

Now is the Time to Get Your Papers Cheap.

EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS.

THE AMERICAN FARMER should be a regular visitor to every farm-house in the country. It is the oldest agricultural paper in America, it is one of the very best, the most common-sense and practical, it is exceedingly cheap, and it is a fearless, outspoken advocate of just treatment of the farmers at the hands of politicians and the Government.

We want every farmer in the country to take it, and we have devised a scheme which will give it to every one at a nominal price. The subscription price is 50 cents a year, and it is very cheap at that price.

But if two farmers will send their subscriptions together, we will give the two for one year for 85 cents, or 42½ cents each.

If three will send together, the price will be \$1.25, or 41½ cents.

If four join together the price will be \$1.50, or 37½ cents each.

If five join together it will be \$1.75, or 35 cents apiece.

If a club of 10 is formed it will be \$2.50, or 25 cents apiece.

This makes a price so low as to defy competition.

There should be no trouble whatever in raising a club of 10 at every Post-office in the United States.

Let every farmer who wants a first-class agricultural paper for the ensuing year at an almost nominal price, get nine of his neighbors to join him in a club, and send us \$2.50 for 10 yearly subscriptions to THE AMERICAN FARMER. There will be no deviation from these rates.

Send in your clubs at once, so as not to miss a number.

TWO PAPERS AT LESS THAN THE PRICE OF ONE.

We have made arrangements by which we can offer THE AMERICAN FARMER and THE BREEDER'S GAZETTE at a very low figure—that is, \$1.50 a year for both. The subscription price of THE BREEDER'S GAZETTE alone is \$2 a year. This is a chance to get two good papers for very little money.

There should be a law in every State prohibiting wagon tires of less than three inches.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The table of contents of the November Overland certainly presents a rich feast for the lovers of magazine literature. Possibly Gen. Lucius H. Easton's article on "War in the Orient" will attract the most attention among the newspapers of the country. Coming from the first U. S. Minister and Envoy to this country sent to the "Land of the Morning Calm," it is a most valuable addition to the Asiatic war literature of the day. "Fishing at Drake's Bay" is the narration of how the San Francisco market is supplied with fish by means of nets dragged by steam tugs. Another valuable addition to the descriptive literature of the Asiatic Coast is "The Republic of Shanghai," by an ex-U. S. Vice-Consul. The stories of this number are "The Story of O'Donnell's Digging," by Hon. Rollin M. Daggett, late U. S. Minister to the Sandwich Islands; "She Had a Familiar Spirit," by John Hanner, the well-known journalist; "The Conscience of Qiong Wo," by Horace Annesley Vachell; "Rain Without Records" is a dash of verse by an army officer, describing a remarkable horse race; "As Talked in the Sanctum," by the editor, deals with the China-Japan war, and *Deeds and Book Reviews* are unusually complete and bright. Published at San Francisco. Price 25 cents.

The quaint little women of Kate Greenaway are to be seen in a magazine for the first time since their creation. Miss Greenaway has hitherto always drawn them in color and for book publication. Now, however, she is at work upon a special series of her curious tots for *The Ladies' Home Journal*, and in that periodical they will alternate with a new series of Palmer Cox's funny "Brownies."

A Chance for Homes.

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: Won't you do some of your readers a kindness by telling them of one of the best opportunities for securing cheap homes now open in the United States? In Chambers and Jefferson Counties, in this State (Texas), the State owns many sections of what are called public school lands. The greater part of the expense of our



public schools is provided for sale of these lands. Only actual settlers can buy them. Price \$2 to \$3 per acre; terms, one-fourth cash down, balance may be deferred 40 years if interest (five per cent.) is paid annually. No one can take more than one section (640 acres) and must reside thereon and improve the same during the first three years after purchasing. Continual residence is not absolutely necessary. These lands are near a new railroad being built and only from 30 to 60 miles from Galveston.

I am not interested in any way except as a settler desiring to see the country settled up. It is as fine land as ever was cultivated for all manner of crops and fruits, except, perhaps, apples, and even apples will produce as well as anywhere in the South Coast country. If this land belonged to real estate men instead of the State it would be selling for from \$25 to \$100 an acre right now.

I will try to answer all inquiries this may bring. Let me add, this is prairie land; the climate splendid.—M. O. PERKINS, Galveston, Tex.

THE PRESIDENT'S TURKEY.

A Rhode Island Man Sends It. Horace Vose, of Westerly, R. I., sent President Cleveland a Thanksgiving turkey—a half-blood wild one, which weighed, dressed, 25 pounds.

It was butchered according to the expert method popular in Southern New England. With a sharp knife Mr. Vose picked a small slit in the throat of the bird, and then hung it aloft by its heels. Only poultry raisers with the instinct of a Fijian cannibal execute turkeys in the way people used to take the lives of unpopular Kings and Queens. After the White House bird was quite as dead as the nail in the wall to which it had been hung, Horace had it picked according to the celebrated dry process. No one scalds a fowl in this region. On the contrary, a skillful workman plucks it dry, taking off its feathers very quickly and nimbly; hence most Yankee fowls are sent to market looking as clean as snails, with no abrasions of the tender exterior, no disfiguring marks whatever.

The fact that the President's turkey has a wild strain is due to an original idea and an innovation on the part of Mr. Vose.

"A few years ago," said he, "it seemed to me that the Rhode Island stock was deteriorating, and in experimenting I found that the introduction of wild turkeys from the West benefited the native stock immensely, while the effect of the salt air of the seacoast on the imported birds was almost equally wonderful. Last year I distributed 13 Western toms among the farmers of this County, and this year more than half as many more. The result is a turkey of excellent strain, so that a Providence man who had one last season, ordered another this Fall, saying: 'Let it be like the last one I had, young, tender, juicy, with a grasshopper flavor.'"

The Kangaroo Rat.

One of the queerest little animals of the antipodean wilds of the paradoxical continent of Australia is a little zoological oddity which the naturalists have called the kangaroo rat. It averages no larger than the common rodent of the Norway variety, but is a miniature kangaroo in every respect. Their mode of locomotion is precisely the same as that of macropus gigantes. Besides this, the female carries its young in pouches which nature has provided for that purpose, and in many other respects imitates the habits and characteristics of its gigantic relative.

A SERMON

From the Empire State, With Several Topics.

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: As I write these lines there lies before me a copy of your excellent paper, which has fallen accidentally into my hands. Now, if there is one department of an agricultural paper that I enjoy more than others, it is the letters of correspondents from all over the country. Although the names of the writers may be unfamiliar ones, yet one feels, on laying down the paper, that he has been visiting with friends.

On looking over this department of THE AMERICAN FARMER I was somewhat disappointed to find nothing from the dear old Empire State. This caused me a slight feeling of jealousy, lest she might be overlooked, if not forgotten. So picking up my pen, I—well, though not called like unto Saul—"Here am I!" Although I am an "out-and-out" New Yorker, born and bred in this State, and have never, but once, in my whole life passed beyond its boundaries; notwithstanding that it is my home, and that I have a deep and abiding interest in her welfare, yet I am not going to tell you that gold, silver or bank-bills grow upon the bushes, or lie scattered about as thickly as do the stones along the roadsides; that all one needs to do is to stoop, gather, and be happy! No! In the paper before me is a plea from one of your correspondents for writers of THE AMERICAN FARMER to "tell the truth." And surely this would be a very commendable thing to do when writing for any paper. Fiction is all right in its proper place, but that is not in the instructive columns of an agricultural paper, and I should be wandering far, far from the path of truth were I to tell you such things.

The facts are that one who wrests a living from the soil here must work, and work hard, too. Not only this, but he must mix with his work from day to day a moderate proportion of brains. He must school himself to bear disappointments, and if one thing fails, to look to another for consolation; and above and beyond all else, he must learn to be content to live within his means, and to look on the best side of everything. This is the case here, and I believe it to be the same throughout every State in the Union. Criticism is something that cannot be used too sparingly, but I often wonder when I read the "booming" letters from different parts of the South and West, if their writers do not belong to that class of which it is said "Misery likes company."

I believe those who emigrate and prosper are those who would have prospered had they stayed where they were. They are those who never say fail; who make the best of what falls to their lot in life. A discontented grumbler, a ne'er-do-well, cannot change his natural disposition by emigrating, any more than the leopard will change his spots by being transported to a different climate. I know of families who had nice farms here, good buildings and orchards, the results of many years' hard work, who became possessed of this demon of unrest, disposed of their household treasures at a great sacrifice, and moved to the "Far West," even to the Pacific Slope. Do they write back to their old neighbors and friends, "Come; we have found the place where it is unnecessary to work for a living"? Oh, no! Instead, they say, "Stay where you are!"

Much is said, written, printed, and, as a matter of course, read, nowadays, about the "progression" of farmers. They are urged to get out of the old "rut" pursued by their forefathers, grasp new ideas, etc., and, by so doing, better their condition. Now this is all right and as it should be, but, as I said in regard to the work, one must mix a liberal amount of salt with the reading of such articles, and I am sorry to say, very many of our farmers do not do this. In fact, it is so much Greek to them, and in their ignorance they translate it in this way:

"If my neighbor, who owns a large farm, several horses, a good dairy of cows, and has a snug little sum of money laid by for a rainy day, buys a piano for his daughter, I, too, must buy one for mine. If his wife has a new silk dress, it will never answer for my wife to wear an alpaca. Never mind the fact that the interest on the mortgage will soon be due, and if the money on hand is paid for these things there is no visible way of getting more. Oh, no! that is a secondary matter; and then, you know, the Lord has promised to provide!"

Truly, the Lord has promised to provide, but does he not require that we make an effort to help ourselves, and make the best possible use of the "talent" given us? But so they go, on and on, year after year, faithfully following what they believe to be the march of progression, until at last a foreclosure notice appears in the paper, and it becomes generally known that A—has lost everything he had. Many are surprised; and in his downfall he has the satisfaction—if such it can be called—of knowing that he has "kept up appearances," and has deceived the people at large by making them think he was much richer than he really was. And now he must join the great army of day laborers, and become subservient to an employer, subject also to his dismissal at any time, when, but for these mistaken and foolish notions, he might have had a comfortable home for himself and family. His daughter might better have drummed on a tin pan for music, and his wife worn calico, until their home was paid for, than to suffer the discomforts which are the attendant evils of being always on the move.

Nor is man alone to blame in very many of these cases. It is a fact which cannot fail to become apparent to even the casual observer, that there are still many Eves in this world, who, by dint of coaxing and cajoling, influence

their respective Adams to do many things against their own judgment.

I cannot see wherein this country would be benefited by giving to women the ballot for which so many of the sex are to-day anxiously striving. It would but result in marshaling them at the polls in open warfare with husbands, fathers, sons, uncles and cousins, to say nothing about other friends. Yes, warfare and opposition it must surely be for what would they accomplish if each one must vote the same as did her relatives? It seems to me that this campaign might well be called "Ballot versus Home."

But it is an undisputed fact, one which is often held up in division, that many of our American homes there is a "power behind the throne." Now, if every wife and mother would use this subtle influence, which is given her, in the right way, what a vast amount of good would soon accrue from their united efforts. It might not be an easy task; very likely, in many cases, it would require patience like unto Job's to exert that influence to any great extent; but patient, untiring persistence will accomplish wonders. Indeed, patience in the affairs of this world is the one essential thing which many of us lack. One who has patience and persistence need not hesitate at great undertakings. Even though the time comes when one must make a hard fight for his rights, still will he be much sure of success if he keeps patience on his side.

When I began writing I had no idea of preaching a sermon or delivering a lecture. It was my humble intention to give a description of the soil, temperature, etc., of the crops grown here, and of matters and things in general; but my thoughts led off in another direction, and my pen has kept racing on, until, I glance at the pages of this article, a settled conviction comes over me that it is already too long, and that I have taken a liberty altogether unwarrantable for a stranger, without really saying anything I had intended to say.—Mrs. EDA L. TYNAR, Tiooga Co., N. Y.

NUT GRASS, OR COCO.

The Best Way to Exterminate It.

A four-page circular (illustrated) on nut grass, its description and remedies, has just been issued from the Division of Botany of the United States Department of Agriculture. In accordance with the instructions therein contained the plan of campaign to exterminate nut grass is simply to prevent it maturing seed above ground. Nearly everybody thinks that the nuisance reproduces itself from the nut alone, whereas it propagates a thousand times more from the seed. Hence, to effectually and quickly destroy nut grass on any land infested with it the soil should be frequently stirred during the growing period of Summer, so as to stimulate each tuber and seed to sprout. The best season for fighting it is between mid-summer and frost-time. Although myriads of the sprigs will show themselves above ground in a day or two after each working of the soil, even in the Spring months, yet the seed-stems will not shoot up till late in the season, and the secret of success is to cut down every tall stem while in the flowering stage at the latest, and the earlier the better. The old method of destroying coco, or nut grass, by cutting it off beneath the ground every time a sprig appears above the surface is a useless expenditure of labor. It is requisite only to plow or chop down the grass at the regular intervals of working Indian corn, cotton, or any other crop. By the above method two years are ample time in which to rid any ground of coco. In fact, one season is sufficient to subdue it, except that in subsequent years a few scattering spr

THE GARDEN.

Pickings.

Most garden vegetables are gross feeders, for whom the soil can hardly be made too rich.

Florida truckers whose crops were destroyed by the storms are turning their attention to planting strawberries.

Lettuce plants in the greenhouse should now be making good growth. Prevent the appearance of green fly by the free use of tobacco dust while the plants are yet small.

It is said that if cabbages are put close together, with the roots deep in the ground, and a furrow of earth turned over them, they will keep better than when the heads are turned down.

Land that is unproductive is not necessarily exhausted. The elements of fertility may lie in the soil, but in an unavailable form. Leguminous plants will bring it nitrogen from the air, and a crop of manure may supply some simple element to make a proper balance in its constituency.

All garden land should now be well manured and plowed, but not harrowed, as it is better to leave the surface rough for the time to act upon. The soil cannot be made too rich or too well pulverized, and ground now laid out for gardening next season should be put in the best condition possible.

By adding strawberries heavily with leaves, keeping the covering on late in spring, late fruit is obtained, which could not be had in any other way. Do not let the covering so heavy that the plants are not under it, but wait till the ground freezes before placing the leaves on.

Gathering and storing the root crops can no longer be delayed. Beets, carrots, manioc, etc., can stand a little longer when yet in the ground, but no heavy freezing, and not much frost when pulled and ready for storage. Wherever stored, they should be kept from wilting as well as from freezing.

The turnip is a hardy root, and will not suffer in any way by leaving the crop in the ground until spring. Market gardeners, indeed, dig them out for sale during the winter, as they are then taken up in the best condition without drying and shriveling. If they are taken up, they should be put in the ground or kept in a cool, rather damp, cool cellar.

Those who have late limas in the garden, can prolong their season of usefulness by picking them in the green state and spreading them thinly on the roof and letting them dry in the pods. When perfectly dry, shell and put away for winter's use as wanted. Soak over night in cold water before using, and there will be but little loss of the original flavor.

There is little difference in varieties of asparagus. Rich soil and good culture will make good asparagus of any kind. The Palmetto is now the most popular sort. One can get the seed from any good seedman. Soiled down in the spring and well cared for in good soil will make good asparagus for the next fall, and in second year after setting one may get a fine crop.

A net cellar for storing should be built all below the surface. Side walls will be necessary, and upon these should be sprung an arch as flat as is safe. In the center of the roof there should be a piece of canvas six inches in diameter to allow the heat that will naturally come up from the bottom to pass off. It should have double doors, the outer ones on the side, like the ordinary outside cellar door. Put the vegetables on the floor, and should be the natural heat, not by wind just as it is taken from the bank. Put a cap over the ventilating pipe to keep out the light, but not to tight that the warm air from below cannot escape freely.

Cauliflowers, if put in when the heads begin to form, and if the roots are covered with sand, will develop their heads perfectly, so that these luxuries may be enjoyed almost the whole winter. Cabbage with heads but half grown will perfect their growth before spring and be far more delicate and tender than if put away fully grown.

Keeping Sweet Potatoes Through the Winter.

The following method I have found to keep sweet potatoes in perfect order until June. Procure a good supply of pine straw from the woods in a dry time and keep it under cover ready for use. Dig the potatoes as soon as frost cuts the vines. If not convenient to dig at once, cut the frosty vines off at once, or they will harbor fungus growth that will damage the potatoes. Dig on a warm, sunny day, and do not allow them to be bruised by throwing into piles. Handle at all times as gently as eggs. Allow them to lie in the sun during the day, and in the evening haul to a convenient place. Place a good layer, a foot thick, of pine or other straw on the ground, and on this pile the potatoes in steep heaps, not over 25 bushels in a pile. Cover the pile thickly all over with the dry pine straw; now build a rough board shed over the pile, and let them remain until the weather grows colder, or until they have gone through a smart and dried off. Then cover the heap with earth six or eight inches thick and beat smooth. The important points are the covering under the previous cover of the pine straw before covering with earth, very careful handling, and the board cover overhead. Dry earth keeps out more cold than wet earth. If for family use, put in smaller piles and keep them in entire heap at once for use, keeping them in a dry, warm place while using. —W. F. MASSEY, Horticulturist, North Carolina Experiment Station.

More About Hard Times.

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: In a former article I stated that perhaps I would in the future give other causes, as I think, of present distress. I had almost forgotten the promise, when my attention was called to it by reading an article in THE AMERICAN FARMER by G. E. Place, in which he labors to show that I am (to make the best of it) mistaken. Perhaps, to an extent, we are both right, the difference arising from a view of his surroundings away up in Maine, in a nook between New England and Canada; mine was taken from my surroundings in Tennessee. As he argues principally by supposing such and such to be the case, and I not being versed in that method, might make a failure; for that reason, and in order to be as brief as possible, I will at once attempt to point out other causes.

First I will name a willful waste of what has been received. The old adage "Willful waste brings woe," (reference is had to those who are now suffering most; farmers who are not in debt are not much troubled). How many wage-earners who, if they now had all the money they ever spent for whisky, beer, soda-pop, and tobacco, could now be in comfortable circumstances. I will give an instance: I learned recently from a reliable grocer that one of his customers used 25 cents worth of soda-pop each day. As I knew his store was not open on Sunday, I counted six days, making \$1.50 per week—\$78 a year. I then made the calculation to see the amount of provision that money would buy at present prices in this part of the country. I found it would purchase 500 pounds of flour, 30 bushels of corn, 200 pounds of bacon, 32 pounds of coffee, 50 pounds of sugar, 50 pounds of lard, \$10 worth of potatoes, molasses and butter, leaving \$7 for spices, canned goods, etc. When I come to think it over, I do not believe that my wife and I consume more than that amount of the above named provisions in a year. Seventy-eight dollars a year spent for that which adds nothing to the strength, health or well being of any man or his family.

Now, I ask, how much can any kind of a tariff or free trade remedy such an evil? Another, and the one I consider greater in magnitude than all other causes combined, is the wickedness of the Nation in ignoring the laws of God; also, the blessings for which the patriots of the Revolution fought, suffered and died to obtain. In this administration of the Government is allied to particularly. We claim that our forefathers obtained the great privilege, the inalienable right of our Nation, "Governed by and for the people, equal rights to all." Thus, all are included in the administration of the Government.

Admitting there is a great proportion of our citizens who are God-fearing men, who have every evil way, yet they have suffered themselves to be led too much by party and party measures, regardless of consequences. Though there be many righteous in our Nation, of what avail is it if we are not presided over by that class of men, especially as regards the making and executing of righteous laws? What kind of men generally make up the majority, or, we may say, give the casting vote; are they not those who sell their franchise, their inalienable right. And the men who are elected, as a general rule, are they not those who bribe and use all kinds of dishonest trickery; men who have but little regard for righteous laws or the good of the people; men who are ready when they get into office, into our legislative halls, to sell their influence and support to railroads and any other kind of monopolies? It is thus we are governed to a great extent by the most corrupt class of the Nation. In other words, we are—if not directly, we are indirectly—have been governed by money, whisky, trickery and every other dishonest means, it seems, that the evil imaginations of the heart of man could devise.

Not only have we been acting contrary to common sense and sober judgment, but have been acting knowingly contrary to the righteous laws of him who is our final Judge. Having thus gone on and on sowing corruption, ought we expect to reap anything better than that we have sown? In order that man be punished for his sins, all that is necessary is for him to be left to himself, unrestrained by righteous laws, and he will surely work out his own destruction, with apparent greediness. Of this we may have ample proof by looking back to a period a few years previous to, and during, our late civil war; but did we improve by the lesson? Instead of showing signs of repentance, as we should have done, we seemed to plunge deeper into iniquity, until now we have further proof that man left unrestrained will surely work his own destruction.

I am aware there are some who will think differently, and perhaps sneer at what I have written. To such I will state, if but one precept of our Saviour had been observed and kept, "As you would that others do unto you," etc., would there be now any trouble between labor and capital, or between employers and employees? Truly, the way of the transgressor is hard. Well might we acknowledge, as did Joseph's brethren before they knew it was their brother had them put in prison, "We are verily guilty * * * therefore is this distress come upon us." —BENJAMIN J. McDONALD, Coulterville, Tenn.

In Disguise.

"Surely," said the parson, "angels visit us in our sleep. Who has not seemed to hear the vibration of their wings as he lay at rest, and the soft, soothing symphony of their minor music?"

Before he could proceed, he was interrupted by a bucolic gentleman in the back seat, who allowed that he had heard them drum muskets, confound 'em, lots of times; but he never thought of 'em as angels.—Boston Transcript.

"OLD FAIRFAX"

Some of the Fine Farms around Lewinsville, Va.

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: Few persons outside the circle of friends of those immediately interested, have any idea of the wonderful advances made by the farmers of this State in agriculture during the past few years. Within that period a large number of Northern men, many of whom served with credit on the side of the Union during the war, have settled in the Old Dominion, and the intelligence displayed by them, as well as the native Virginians, in cultivating such crops as are best adapted to the soil of their respective neighborhoods or in the raising of stock or establishment of dairies have resulted in a degree of prosperity almost unlooked for in Virginia.

By your permission I propose to give a brief account of some of the best of these farms, as I shall see them in a journey through the State.

"MEADOWBROOK FARM," the beautiful estate of Mr. Thomas J. Hodgden, is located a short distance from Lewinsville. It comprises a lovely tract of 300 acres and is situated on an elevated plateau which is about 400 feet higher than Washington City. The entire farm is in high state of cultivation; it is stocked with the finest of cattle and sheep, which are cared for in the most painstaking manner.

When Mr. Hodgden purchased Meadowbrook a few years ago it was in the "brush," but by intelligent direction and liberal expenditure of money he has brought it to a degree of perfection that has been attained by but few farms in the South.

The stock consists of 25 Jersey cattle, nearly all of which is registered; 300 excellent sheep, and 14 horses; while so many men are employed by Mr. Hodgden to conduct the farm affairs and in building operations that his payroll frequently amounts to \$150 per week.

Mr. Hodgden's residence was designed by himself, and is one of the largest and most comfortable in the State. The special object had in view by Mr. Hodgden was to create a place where the children and grandchildren of the owner of the property, and his estimable wife, could gather with them and enjoy seasons of united domestic life. The house is 37 feet wide by 75 feet deep, two stories high, and contains 14 rooms, which are provided with every modern convenience, including hot and cold water, bath and toilet rooms, gas, etc.

The outbuildings which are completed consist of five different and separate barns for horses, sheep and cattle respectively. There is also a commodious chicken house, which contains some of the finest Buff Cochins in the country.

The dairy arrangements are complete in every particular, while the butter produced and not needed for home use readily commands from 10 to 15 cents per pound above the market rate in Washington.

Mr. Hodgden has the reputation among his neighbors of having done much to benefit the community in which he lives. He is a friend to education and has made liberal contributions whenever the cause stood in need of it. Mr. Hodgden is a well-known broker, with offices in Washington, Philadelphia and other cities.

"CLINTON PARK," Mr. Matthew J. Laughlin is widely known in many parts of the country, having been an extensive contractor for some years in Washington, where his work amounted to more than \$1,000,000, and in San Francisco, Cal., where he had large contracts for the Government at the Custom House.

This farm, which consists of 143 acres, is called "Clinton Park," and is situated a short distance above Lewinsville. The land is all under first-class cultivation and has recently been manured, limed and boned. The family residence is one of the most complete in the vicinity, being 40 feet square, with all the modern improvements, hot and cold water, bath tubs, toilet rooms, all finished in hard wood. The barn, which is 61 feet square, was recently purchased by Mr. Bradley, a noted stock raiser of Kentucky and broker of Cincinnati, as being the best that he had seen outside of Kentucky. The site is 16 feet wide, 52 feet long and 22 feet high, and is the largest in the country.

The dairy comprises a fine assortment of Jerseys, Holsteins and Devons, some of which are thoroughbreds, and the butter produced is of the finest quality, commanding the highest prices. The proposed extension of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which is to give the latter a direct southern outlet, will pass through Mr. Laughlin's farm.

"HIGHLANDS" is the appropriate name by which the farm of Mr. D. P. Hamblin is known, it being about 500 feet above tide water and is smooth and well kept as a lawn. It is located on the Alexandria and Leesburg pike, which previous to the war was regarded as the finest public highway in eastern Virginia, and a few miles from Vienna.

The farm comprises about 100 acres, 60 of which are under a high state of cultivation, the balance being woodland. The house is located on the highest point of land on which any house is built above Alexandria and Leesburg, being 550 feet above tide-water. It is a splendid place, commanding the best prices. The proposed extension of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which is to give the latter a direct southern outlet, will pass through Mr. Hamblin's farm.

Another barn, 30 by 40 feet, is to be converted into a tool-house, and Mr. Hamblin will soon build a horse barn 30 by 50 feet. Mr. Hamblin has a fine herd of Jersey cattle, the product of each cow which is nearly 300 pounds of butter annually. He has also a fine lot of horses, which have good blood in them, and a beautiful stock of Silver Laced Wyandotte chickens which have no superiors in the State.

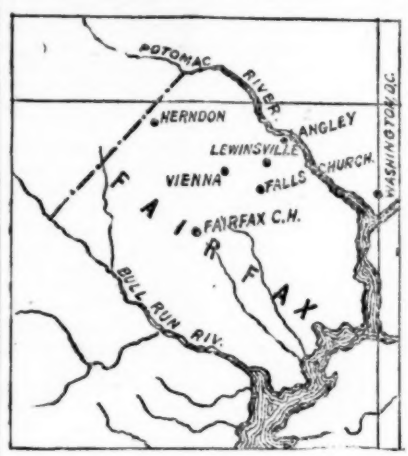
Mr. Hamblin uses the Cooley system in making butter, and this and careful manage-

ment results in his getting an average of 10 cents per pound above the market price for each pound he sells.

When Mr. Hamblin bought the property it had become run down, but with judicious foresight he has through short rotation of corn, wheat and clover brought it to an elegant state of cultivation. He is also highly pleased with Canada peas and oats, sown together, for an early spring crop, while later crimson clover comes in nicely for soiling. He is also extremely favorable to cow peas as a soiling crop and a renovating crop for land. Mr. Hamblin is a strong believer in good roads and good schools and thinks the lack of these greatly retard agricultural development in the State.

He also thinks that every farmer ought to take plenty of agricultural papers, and believe that the man who cannot get the value of his subscription out of any paper of the kind he may take has mistaken his calling.

Mr. Hamblin is a native of Lee, Mass., but has resided in Fairfax County for about 10 years, and says he has found that climate to be a happy medium between the rigors of the North and warmth of the South.



Mr. J. A. Storm, who lives about two miles from Lewinsville, conducts one of the largest dairies in the South. He has a farm of 150 acres which is in a high state of cultivation. His dairy herd contains 50 cows, and the milk produced enjoys an excellent reputation in Washington, D. C., where it is sold by the firm of Storm & Sherwood. Mr. Storm is surrounded with every comfort that an intelligent farmer can desire, and his name is a synonym for good farming and purity of production.

The family residence of Mrs. Gen. Dunn, widow of Judge-Advocate General Dunn, U. S. Army, is also near Lewinsville. It is in the center of a magnificent tract of land, the farming and dairy operations of which are under the supervision of Mr. George Dunn, the son of the General. The house is one of the best in the country, and the milk is purchased on the spot by Mr. Storm, who ships it to Washington. At present Mrs. Dunn is sojourning in Berlin, Germany.

One of the most enterprising young men in the vicinity of Lewinsville is

MR. S. F. PEARSON. He has a fine dairy herd of nearly 40 cows and a farm of some 80 acres. The land is extremely productive. All the milk produced is sent to Washington, where it is in great demand and finds a ready sale.

MR. WM. R. DODGE, who for many years was connected with the Sixth Auditor's Office in the Treasury Department at Washington, has a fine farm of 75 acres near Langley. His dairy herd comprises from 30 to 40 cows, all good stock and great milk producers. Mr. Dodge is a native of New York, and his farm is surrounded by his animals with every arrangement necessary for their well being and comfort. His barn, which was designed by himself, is said to have no superior in the State. Among other improvements, there is a large silo of immense capacity. Mr. Dodge is also a great lover of fine fowls, and in the near future will add poultry raising to his dairy operations.

MR. WM. B. BESLEY has a beautiful farm of 80 acres about one-half a mile east of Lewinsville. His dairy herd, in which he takes a great pride, consists of graded Jerseys which are the offspring of the celebrated Highland farm in Orange County, N. Y. He is also a great raiser of fruit, and in addition to extensive apple and pear orchards has about four acres in the finest varieties of blackberries. Mr. Besley is the Notary Public for the neighborhood and his services as an officer are in frequent demand.

MAJOR HENRY E. ALYDID, who was recently elected President of the Oklahoma Territorial Agricultural and Mechanical College, has returned from Stillwater, where he spent several months ago organizing the Institution, and for the present is residing at Spring Hill, his country seat.—TRAVELER.

Pennsylvania Farmers' Institutes.

Lycorning, Hughesville, Dec. 3-4; Lycorning, Montgomery Station, Dec. 5-6; Centre, Port Matilda, Dec. 4-5; Centre, Millheim, Dec. 6-7; Bucks, Richboro', Dec. 11-12; Wayne, New Foundland, Dec. 12-13; Wayne, Pleasant Mount, Dec. 14-15; Indiana, Coudersport, Dec. 18-19.

Numerous other members of the State Board of Agriculture, under whose auspices all the Farmers' Institutes are held in the State, have appointed dates for their respective meetings. It is expected that a large number of the institutes are to be held. A supplementary list will no doubt follow soon.

All Over the Country.

Clover and timothy seed will be very scarce.

The onion crop the country over is very much below the average.

Michigan reports an abundance of peaches, and of extra quality at that.

Potatoes grown with corn do not amount to much. It is not worth while trying.

The cranberry crop of New Jersey will be only 30 per cent. of the usual product.

Utah's wheat crop is the largest ever harvested in that Territory; it amounts to 3,000,000 bushels.

A Dallas (Tex.) dispatch says that the planters in that section are determined not to sow more than one-half of this year's acreage of cotton next season.

The reports on the sugar cane crop are very favorable; its condition in Louisiana averages 100; in the Gulf States it ranges from 89 in Texas to 98 in Georgia, while in South Carolina it is 99.

Corn taken south from a northern locality will not do its best until acclimated, and southern corn taken north will utterly fail to ripen. The famous Chester County corn, of Pennsylvania, is the best for that latitude, but will fail in New England, and will be inferior in the south.

ADVICE TO FARMERS.

Secretary of Agriculture Morton Makes His Annual Report.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 28.—The annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture is particularly interesting because of its references to current troubles with foreign Governments over the importation of American products. He reviews the subject of foreign markets and gives figures of four agricultural exports, especially those of Great Britain. That country paid during the year 1893 for American breadstuffs, provisions, cotton, and tobacco, over \$24,000,000. Including about \$10,000,000 worth of mineral oils with agricultural exports, the United Kingdom took 51.31 per cent. of all exports of breadstuffs, provisions, mineral oils, cotton, and tobacco.

Of dressed beef Great Britain took from us during the first six months of the year 1894, \$10,000,000 worth. Australia, our chief competitor for the trade, Mr. Morton deems it probable that the American farmer will find more advantage from the shipment of dressed beef than from the exportation of live cattle.

Referring to the frequent allegations on the part of European Governments that live animals from the United States are diseased, the Secretary expresses the opinion that these allegations are sometimes based on fear. With reference to the other times made for economic reasons, he argues that if all American beef going abroad were shipped in the carcasses bearing the Government certificate as to wholesomeness, it certainly could not be shut out on account of alleged diseases.

HE HINTS AT RETALIATION. He suggests that if certain European nations continue to insist on microscopic inspection of American pork and veterinary inspection of beef with Governmental certification to each, the Government of the United States might well insist upon such inspection and certification by such foreign Governments of all importations therefrom, whether edible or potable, intended for human consumption.

He reports a very large increase in the exports of beef and hog products over the year previous, with on the other hand, a marked decline in the exports of wheat.

The review of the foreign market leads him to certain conclusions as to the future of our export trade in agricultural products, as follows: Competition of Russia, Argentina, Australia, and other countries favorable by conditions which enable them to grow wheat at a low cost, and especially by the proximity of their wheat-growing regions to water communication, warns American farmers to no longer depend upon wheat as a staple export crop. On the other hand, the good market, at fair prices, to be found in the United Kingdom, for barley and corn, owing to the great variety of uses to which it may be applied, promises to be in constant and increasing demand.

With reference to the Weather Bureau, the Secretary shows that nearly \$140,000 has been saved from the appropriation and covered back in the Treasury. He shows that, by heeding the admonitions of the Bureau relative to the great tropical storm of September, 1894, vessels valued at over \$17,000,000 were saved. So in October, when over 1,200 vessels, valued at \$19,000,000, were kept in port, owing to the Bureau's warnings. Moreover, many human lives were preserved. The Secretary concludes that the Government is a paying customer, and may properly come within the functions of the Government.

The work of the Bureau of Animal Industry during the year has been greatly increased, notwithstanding the reduction in the appropriation. The Secretary concludes a review of the inspection of export and interstate meat with the recommendation that the law providing for the same may be so amended as to compel the owners of the meat inspected to pay the cost of inspection. It is also suggested that the inspection of the markets, thus enhancing the price of their property, they, as the direct pecuniary beneficiaries, should agree to pay for it.

GUARDING AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS. Special mention is made in the appropriation bill for the current year of tuberculosis and sheep with as discussed in the report of Agriculture is authorized to guard against cases in view of the danger to human life from tuberculosis. The sterilization of milk has been thoroughly explained in a leaflet which has had a wide circulation. It appears that sterilization of milk may be a perfect safeguard where milk is used.

The Russian thistle is made the text for a suggestion that seeds of new grasses and other plants from abroad must be hereafter very carefully inspected.

The report concludes with a statement showing that of the total exports of this country for 1894 (fiscal year) farm products aggregated \$628,000,000, or 72.58 per cent. of the whole. The markets of the world, he says, demand from the American farmer the best quality of breadstuffs and meats. The farmer exchanges his products, the results of his labor, which have specific purchasing power, for money having a general purchasing power. Under the heading, "For Prime Pork Give Us Prime Currency," the Secretary says:

"Would the \$600,000,000 worth of farm products from the United States sold last year to foreign nations have been as remunerative to the American farmer if they had been paid for in silver as they have been when paid for gold or its equivalent?"

HE WANTS A GOLD STANDARD. "When the standard coin of the Republic shall be made of metal worth as much after it is melted as it purports to be worth in coin, and the mint values and the commodity values of all metallic money approximately equal it, will not the American farmer and all other citizens become more permanently prosperous?"

"If the American farmer, laborer, and manufacturer are compelled by law to submit to the measurement of the value of the products of their efforts by a silver standard, will not the foreigner in buying these products always use the same measure? With his beef, pork, and cereals the American farmer buys money, and why should he not demand as superlative quality in that which he buys as the domestic and foreign purchasers insist upon in that which he sells?"

"If the buyers demand 'prime' beef and 'prime' pork, why should not the farmer demand 'prime' currency, the best measure of value, the most fair and facile medium of exchange, in the most unflattering money market of the world of commerce has ever evolved?"

Competition in Cabbages.

American cabbage-growers must meet the competition from farmers as far distant as Rotterdam. The first consignment of Dutch cabbages from Rotterdam under the new tariff law, which removes the duty of three cents per head, reached New York recently, and many other consignments are said to be in the course of shipment. The cabbages consist of both the red and white sort, the former having been sent here before in quantities. The home crop is poor this year, and there will be a shortage.

Make new beds of mushrooms under the greenhouse benches. Try the method of growing them in large pots near the heating pipes.

FREE A SILK DRESS.

For complete dress free. We are sending out a handsome silk dress (full length, all desirable shades) to every subscriber to this paper. It is a beautiful dress, and we want you to have it. We mean what we say: our Illustrated Home Weekly is one of the best papers in the world. We will send you our paper each week for 3 months. No charge, no postage. We will send you a handsome dress (full length, all desirable shades) to every subscriber to this paper. It is a beautiful dress, and we want you to have it. We mean what we say: our Illustrated Home Weekly is one of the best papers in the world. We will send you our paper each week for 3 months. No charge, no postage. We will send you a handsome dress (full length, all desirable shades) to every subscriber to this paper. It is a beautiful dress, and we want you to have it. We mean what we say: our Illustrated Home Weekly is one of the best papers in the world. We will send you our paper each week for 3 months. No charge, no postage. 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The Dead Wife.

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

Always I see her in a saintly guise
Of filled raiment, white as her own brow
When first I kissed the forehead to the eyes
That smile forever now.

Those gentle eyes! They seem the same to me
As looking through the warm dews of mine
Own.
I see them gazing downward patiently
Where, lost, and all alone

In the great emptiness of night, I too
And sob aloud for one returning touch
Of the dear hands that, Heaven having now,
I need so much—so much!

ABOUT WOMEN.

MISS ELIZABETH POLHEMUS, a bright young California woman about 20 years of age, is qualifying herself as a pilot for ocean vessels entering the harbor of San Diego. In eight months she expects to pass the required examination.

A TRAVELLER TELLS THE FOLLOWING story of a hospitable old lady in Nova Scotia. She was one day urging upon her guests a choice of refreshments which they refused. "Now, do let me go and get you some pie," she said. "Just say the word; I've got three kinds of apple pie—open-face, crossbar, and liverd."

MISS ANNIE REYNOLDS, who is the first World's Secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association, is a graduate of Wellesley. She is an accomplished linguist and much given to philanthropy, which makes her especially fitted for her position. She will make London her headquarters and travel much on the continent.

IT IS SAID THAT LADY CARLIE is training an entire staff of women to take charge of the extensive grounds of her fine York estate. She claims that women, by right of their superior taste and judgment in everything pertaining to floriculture, should be, and are, better adapted to the lighter work of garden making than men; and, with the tendency of the age, which is to give women the first chance at everything, she is trying her experiment on a whole-sale scale.

MISS ISABEL DARLINGTON, a daughter of ex-Congressman Smedley Darlington, of West Chester, Pa., will soon grace the Chester County bar, having passed the preliminary examination and registered as a law student in the office of ex-Judge Thomas S. Butler. It was said at the end of the ordeal that Miss Darlington had passed one of the best examinations on record in the County. At the end of the two years' reading she will be admitted to the bar to practice.

ONE BRAVE AND PLUCKY girl is Miss Mary S. Soper, of Lodi, N. Y. Because of her father's infirmity she says she is the man of the farm on which they live, and she finds trousers much more convenient than skirts. That's why she wears them. She does, and sows, and chops wood, and her trousers she wears tucked in her high top-boots just as any horny-handed farmer does. Miss Soper wears skirts, however, when she ventures beyond the domain of her farm.

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE tact in introducing any reform movement and gaining one's end. Miss McCormick, a young California artist, is an illustration of this. She had long felt that in her own case, at least, there was need for dress reform, and by gradual changes accustomed the inhabitants of her village home, Pacific Grove, to short skirts without giving a violent shock to their prejudices. From the ordinary length she reduced the skirts half an inch daily, until they barely reached the knee. She wears leggings of russet leather, and her costumes, which are tailor-made, are becoming and even graceful. As to its usage, it has been said to be especially convenient for the young artist when she paints cattle, and fences to be no obstacle.

IN ALAMEDA COUNTY, CAL., there is a woman's pedestrian club called "Our Tramping Club." The chief condition of membership is the ability to walk 10 miles, but it is not unusual for the walks to be extended to twice that length. Twenty-four miles has thus far been the limit of each tour, and, clad in their suits of striped ticking, made with blouse waists, and skirts just long enough to reach the tops of their stout walking shoes, the girls have tramped on alternate Fridays to nearly every interesting spot accessible from Oakland. Sketching and natural history collections are incidental to the walks. Such an association would be an advantage to any community.

FASHION'S FANCIES.

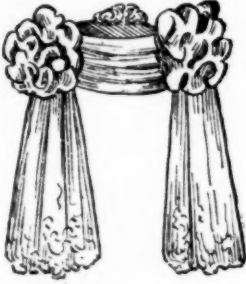
Heavy black mohair braid is used for belts to simple cloth gown. For more dressy effects, velvet ribbon is worn. A fancy belt of this was made with two straps starting with rosetts on each shoulder and caught to the front of the belt at the waist with two bows, and continuing with long ends.

Sleeves keep to their voluminous size. The big picturesque hats in the milliners' windows are, as a rule, covered with many ostich plumes.

Coats are either very short or very long.

Collarettes.

Nothing has captured the feminine eyes so completely as the little fancy collars made to pin on over any gown one chooses to wear. These are made



of ribbon, lace, chiffon, net, silk, crepe or any like airy material, and of every possible color or shade. A roset under each ear is the regular order of things. These are now worn regardless of becomingness, but many of them are exceedingly becoming and dainty. A woman with a very short neck and given to stoutness, should avoid making her neck look wider by adding the rosetts.

Party gowns are cut to look as much like our grandmothers' as possible about the neck, shoulders and sleeves. Every woman who can afford the luxury has invested in a great wide Anne of Austria collar, to be worn with steeple dresses. Most of these collars are cream color; but the white ones are more beautiful.

The pretty carved tortoise shell combs of long ago are now much in vogue. The taller and wider the better they are liked, and the woman is lucky who can take from her put-away things one of these, left over from a past era, for they are apt to be prettier than those of modern make.

Furs are much worn for trimming. Beas are growing shorter, and the little brown mink animal hold their own as collars. Muffs are larger than formerly.

For School.

The pretty Scotch plaids shown this season in the shops are especially suited to children. The cut shows a plaid of the mixed dark blue and green, made



up on the bias, with plain dark-blue cloth to match. In making up plaids, they should always be combined with the plain prevailing color, to break the mixed effect. A whole waist of plaid is rarely becoming.

EXCHANGE.

Mrs. Minnie R. Gale-Potter, Blackwater, Cooper Co., Mo., writes: I have to exchange one year's numbers of "Comfort" magazine for "English Orphans," and "Homestead on the Hillside," by Mary J. Holmes. Nine months' numbers of same magazine for "Widow Goldsmith's Daughter." Books must be gold bound and in good condition. Sheet music: "The Orphan's Prayer," for "Gen. Smith's Grand March," "My Vision," "Distant Bells," "Chimes of Normandy," "Killarney," words and music, for "Grand March in Norma." Exchanges must be in good order. Would also like a married lady correspondent in southern Kentucky and north Mississippi.

An open window in the sleeping room, no matter if the air is cold, will keep dull headaches away. No one who sleeps with closed windows or ventilates by simply opening doors to adjoining rooms need expect to have a bright, clear complexion.

WOMAN'S WISDOM.

Take Care of Your Gowns.

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: Great care must be taken of a dress when not in use, in order to keep it looking fresh and new. The following is a good way in which this may be done: Have a chest made about four feet long by 20 inches wide and 18 inches in depth. It may be lined by gluing to the inside any material desired for a lining. Over the bottom should be placed a layer of cotton batting or wadding sprinkled with sachet powder, and over this the lining drawn smoothly and tacked at the edges. The chest, when covered and cushioned, makes a pretty couch and serviceable for a bedroom.

The dress or wrap should be folded carefully and laid in, leaving no chance for wrinkles. Several articles may be laid in if light enough that their weight does not press articles beneath them.

Ribbons should be rolled before laying away.

Small perfume sachets may be placed between folds of clothing, in order to give it the delicate odor desired, and is much richer than the use of perfumes directly on the garments. Perfume sachets are made in a great variety of ways. Some are small bags filled with cotton batting, where have been well sprinkled with sachet powder; while others are made by placing a thin layer of batting and powder between two pieces of cloth of any desired shape. They may be bound with ribbon or buttonhole stitched with embroidery silk.

Silk ribbons, velvet ribbons, very pretty painted or embroidered in silk floss. An ottoman on the same plan as the chest mentioned above, makes a convenient receptacle for shoes.—DIANA.

THE BOYS.

How They can Help, and Make Their Mother Happy.

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: I wish to ask: "Dear farmers' wives, what are you doing this winter?"

"Oh, nothing much, only my housework, tending the babies and trying to keep my family's clothes patched up to keep them warm—the clothes do wear out so. It seems that I cannot get anything done but cook, eat, wash dishes, sweep, make beds, churn, lake, wash, mop, iron, and patch.

"Well, I think that is enough to do. But does not the good man or big boys help you?"

"Oh! not much; they have chores to do; then they go to town."

"Well, don't let them go to town so much."

"How can I help it? I have so much to do it really helps me along to have them go."

"Have them help you. Teach the boys to darn stockings and sew on the sewing machine. That will help you lots. Just say, 'Tom, won't you please sew up those sheets for me on the sewing machine?'"

"Why, I always sew my sheets overhand with my needle; they're so much nicer."

"Yes, they are a little nicer, but they are always coming unsewn where you take a fresh needleful of thread. Just let Tom take your sheet and pin it together in the middle and both edges, and in two or three minutes he will say, 'How wide do you want this hem, mother?' Go and show him, and in ten minutes he will ask, 'Where is your other sheet, mother?' and ask you why you never got him at the machine before. While Tom is making sheets, Fred will get a big needle and coarse thread, and you will hear, 'Oh, mother, where do you keep your buttons?' You will tell him, and the first thing you will know he will have all those buttons sewed on the coats, overcoats and jackets; and, 'Oh, mother, where are my buttons?' and he will get to town today. 'Well, I feel better, anyway,' says Tom, 'than if we did go.' And so do I, says Fred."

"Well, boys, you have helped me lots to-day and I did not worry about you, either, and I thank you very much."

Out they go to their chores, and you go to getting supper, and the first thing you know you are singing away. When they come in all smiling, and dirty boots, you don't scold them for making your nice, clean floor dirty. You say to yourself, 'I wish I had some of a rug to put down for them to wipe their feet on, but I haven't time to make any. I must fix their shirts for Sunday.'

After supper, you wash the dishes, Tom wipes them, and Fred washes the panicles or puts the dishes away; then you get to reading, and you go to fold up the rest of the muslin for your sheets. Where is it? You look around; there it is on a chair all nicely folded; you go to it away when, lo, it is all made up into sheets, 12 of them sewed up and hemmed in one day, and a big boy did it, too, when it would have taken you a week to overhand and baste the hem, and here you don't have a basting thread to pull out. You think about those boys when you go to bed, and are thankful one day passed and you did not have to worry about them getting into company. Not but that you could trust them, but there are so many evils lurking around town to lead young boys astray. You are thinking this was the happiest day you have seen for many a week.—MRS. W. T. JONES, Harrison, Neb.

NECESSITY OF CULTURE.

Another Strong Plea for Educating Girls.

EDITOR FARMHOUSE: In the issue of Oct. 10 we read a very good letter from one who introduced herself as the wife of a Missouri farmer. The theme upon which she chose to write is one which should have a corner in every good periodical.

Agreeing with the sister that it is a good idea to first get acquainted, I will introduce myself as a farmer's daughter, raised in Iowa, but for five years past have made my home in Kansas. I have been a teacher for 10 years, and as that work necessitates more or less going around, I have seen and become acquainted in a great many homes. One reason which, I feel assured, causes unhappy homes, and furnishes grounds for the great "ado" which has been over the topic "Is marriage a failure?" is the lack of proper education. Mark the word proper, please. In my opinion, no 16-year-old girl is capable of taking full charge of a home. It takes that long to acquire a common-school education, if one has the very best advantages.

That, every mother and housekeeper should have. One who, wife, mother, housekeeper and cook all in one cannot do the best part by her children; yet, if she is studious, she may become master.

Her work must be simplified; as the sister suggested, give her hungry a plain, wholesome diet; be a gentler in teaching them to be orderly, and not do for them what they can and should do for themselves. A wise mother can keep a house in better order with half a dozen children than the ignorant girl could with none.

Another defect of poor housekeeping, aside from the health, is the extravagance, and, finally, disorderly housekeeper is always extravagant.

I pity the farmer's daughter in her "One Vacation" for not having an aunt to visit who lived in the middle path.

We find just such as "Aunt Mary" or "Aunt Martha" in almost every community. But where is our remedy? "Aunt Mary," I think, was not a really lady person, because she is described as a reader and an student. Here is a case where pride is lacking. This may grow on a person from the effects of associations. There is an idea prev-

alent among a few ordinary folk that if one acts politely, or is cleanly, they are "proud," and that is a trait to guard against. What a delusion!

Pride, a certain amount, at any rate, must be necessary to common decency. I mean a genuine pride. That which receives the name in most cases should be termed foolishness.

While I acknowledge to housekeepers they have a difficult work, I believe with a fair education and a few more years of experience by observation than most of them have, if mingled with pride, minus all laziness, any one could be a good housekeeper. If you are blessed with children, they make work, to be sure, but if they are kept healthy, they may be taught so that while very young they can do almost as much work as they make, outside their lessons.

Now, I do not wish to be understood as insisting upon girls being "old maids," neither do I think it any serious matter to be one; yet, the universal of always poking fun at them, I really believe, in general, has had a wrong influence.

A great many girls whose opportunities for culture have been limited, have been persuaded to accept their first offer of marriage. I could state instances almost by the score similar to the following: A young girl 15 years of age, of poor parentage, has a proposal from a low-down, scoundrel of a fellow 35 years of age. After she accepts him and is married, she says to a previous schoolmate: "I was just bound I wouldn't be an old maid."

Now, if this girl, and scores of others like her, would not get that nonsensical idea in their heads, but for five years longer, perhaps, devote all their time and energy to supporting themselves and the saving of their leisure time and extra income, they may improve themselves wonderfully, and, I believe, not work as hard as the women with families. With such culture a girl will have better opportunities of marriage, and would shudder at the thought of being tied to the ignominy she might have had before.

As fast as the women improve the world is going to get better. I think women do not need the ballot to reform this world. They have more power now than they use to good advantage. I used to think women would put an end to intemperance if they could vote, but I have changed my opinion. As long as nine-tenths of the girls are seen with men who have their breath scented with liquor or tobacco, or both, and a few even smoke cigars with them, or drink beer, I cannot have the confidence in their voting I would like to have.

It isn't the cultured girls who do those things, hence I insist on educating girls. There is no real good reason, in this day and age of the world, why the mass of the people should not be educated like them. We do not hear the nonsensical talk from the educated mothers we have to listen to from others.

In one field of my labor I was given the responsible position of Sunday-school Superintendent, which added greatly to my duties, enough so as to worry me. Yet, I tried my best to do it well. I wonder if anyone can imagine how my feelings were hurt when, one day in my hurrying around, I stopped to ask a lady why Josie, her second daughter, did not come to school as regular as the first. I can do to keep May dressed to go with the boys."

I could not help but be sad, when a mother would so trifely with a thought which should have been serious.—MRS. A. NOBLE.

For Best.

It is easy to make a plain wool gown for everyday wear, but the question often arises, "How shall I have my best dress made?" There are so many pretty



ways, that one often has a difficult time deciding the matter. It is no trifling matter, either, especially if one only has a "best" gown of really fine material about once in two or three years. That it should be becoming and graceful is essential to its wearer's happiness when she knows that she must wear it a good long time.

The cut shows such a costume made of golden-brown cloth with a short Spanish jacket of velvet, with wide revers a darker brown than the cloth.

The belt and collar are also of velvet. For extra occasion a vest of lace or chiffon, added, gives a dressy and very pretty effect.

A CHRISTMAS LIST.

Nora Noddle Includes Everybody on Hers.

After thinking it all over for a week, and after much scratching out and adding to and changing around, Nora Noddle had all her secret plans for Christmas carefully written down and knew exactly what she had to do toward holiday preparations.

It began with "Grandpa: Knitted slippers, dark-brown; lamb's wool socks. The rest followed in order. "Grandma: Spectacle case, made of one and one-half inch ribbon, with four rows of crocheted rings joined together and sewed on the ribbon the length of spectacles."

"Mother: Fine hem-stitched white apron." "Father: Warm driving gloves." "Jack: Black satin tie, of thick three-inch ribbon (one yard), doubled and blind stitched along the selvage edges." "Kitty: New clothes for her last year's dolly." "Aunt Margaret: Four cheese-cloth dusters, red and white, with her letter worked in the corner."

P. S.—This list is private; if anybody finds, please don't read.—NORA NODDLE.

FREE TO INVALID LADIES.

A lady who suffered for years with uterine troubles, displacements, leucorrhoea and other irregularities, finally found a safe and simple home treatment that completely cured her without the aid of medical assistance. Here is a case where pride is lacking. This may grow on a person from the effects of associations. There is an idea prev-

For the Home Table.

QUINCES.

A most delicious jelly is made of one-half pound pippins and one-half quinces. This apple and quince jelly is more delicate than a jelly of pure quinces, and is especially nice for layer cakes and puddings. For jelly use the ordinary small quince or the large, smooth quince.

To make a nice marmalade, add about one-quarter pippin apple to the skins, cores and pieces laid aside. Add any water left in which the quinces are boiled. Let the fruit boil for half an hour, then strain it through a colander fine enough to strain out all the seeds, but coarse enough to allow the pulp to go through. Allow three-quarters of a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit, and let the whole mass boil for an hour and a half longer.

ORANGE PUDDING.

Peel three oranges and cut in small pieces, put in a pudding dish, sprinkle over them one cup sugar. Make a custard as follows: Mix the yolks of two eggs with one tablespoon of cornstarch and stir into a pint of sweet milk and one-half cup of sugar brought to a boiling point; boil till it thickens, then pour over oranges. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth and add a tablespoon of sugar, put on the custard and set the dish in the oven to brown. To be eaten cold.

NICE BROWN BREAD.

One cup Indian meal, one cup graham meal, and one half cup rye meal, one-half cup molasses, one cup sour milk, one teaspoonful soda, one-half teaspoonful salt, and enough cold water to make quite moist. Steam three hours. Do not let the water stop boiling, or the bread will not be light.—MRS. FRED CROSSMAN, Vermont.

BAKED PUDDING.

Take one pint sweet milk, two eggs, one teaspoonful of salt; beat the eggs before putting in the milk; mix about the consistency of pound-cake; bake the same as cake. To be eaten with cream and sugar and any kind of fruit desired.—MARY E. BRADFORD.

STEWED PARSNIPS.

Pare and boil four parsnips very tender, cut them in rather thin slices, and put them in a saucepan with one-half pint of cream, a piece of butter rolled in flour, a little grated nutmeg, and salt to taste. Grate shaking the pan around till it is well mixed and is thick and smooth. Pour into a hot dish and serve.

GOOD LEMON PIE.

Grate one lemon, mixing juice with grated rind; one cup water, one cup sugar, yolks of two eggs, a piece of butter size of an egg, one slice of bread broken fine without the crust; bake with an under crust. When done, beat whites of two eggs with four tablespoons of sugar and a few drops of lemon; spread over the top and return to the oven to brown slightly.—CORA PETERSON.

NICE BREAKFAST DISH.

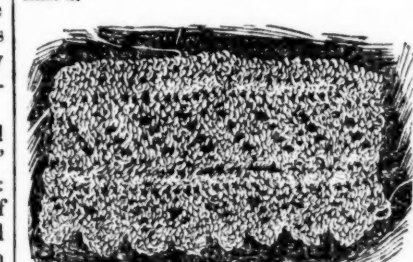
Here is a very palatable breakfast dish with buckwheat cakes, fruit and coffee; or some sister can make a little money at home by selling it in little pans at five cents apiece, as you can easily find a ready market for it.

To make scrapple—Take one liver of a hog (cut it in pieces), the meat from the head, and the scraps you do not want ground up for sausage. Cook till the bones drop out easily, then put in your chopping-bowl and cut very fine. Season with salt and pepper to taste, and one tablespoon of sweet marjoram and one-half teaspoon of sage. Return to the stove, having steamed the liquor in which it was boiled; there should be more than enough liquid to cover the meat. Then take equal parts of cornmeal and buckwheat-flour and stir in till it is a thick mush. Cook till the meal is well done, taking great care not to scorch it; then put in shallow dishes or pans the same as mush. If desired to keep some time, better cover with melted lard; when the lard cools it makes a perfect cover, same as for preserving sausage from spoiling. When wanted for use, slice thin and fry same as cornmeal mush.—SUMNER'S WIFE.

STITCHES.

CAST ON 15 STITCHES.

First row—Slip 1, knit 1, thread around twice, seam 2 stitches together, knit 1, thread over and narrow, knit 3, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 1, thread over, knit 2. Second row—Knit 2, seam 1, knit 1, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 4, seam 1, knit 1, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 2.



Third row—Slip 1, knit 1, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 2, thread over and narrow, knit 3, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 1, thread over, knit 2. Fourth row—Knit 2, seam 1, knit 3, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, seam 1, knit 1, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 2.

Fifth row—Slip 1, knit 1, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, thread over and narrow, knit 3, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 1, thread over, knit 2. Sixth row—Knit 2, seam 1, knit 3, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 2, seam 1, knit 1, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 2.

Seventh row—Slip 1, knit 1, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 4, thread over and narrow, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 6. Eighth row—Slip and bind off 3 stitches, knit 2, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 1, seam 1, knit 4, thread around twice, purl 2 together, knit 2.—MRS. R. A. O.

TALKING IT OVER.

Hints and Opinions on Things in the Home and Out of It.

HERE'S THE MINCE MEAT.

Summer's Wife, Fox Lake, North Dak., writes: To the sister who asked for good mince-meat, I am sure, if she will try the following exactly as given, she will say, as I do, "It is excellent."

All may not know that the tender, lean meat from pigs' heads, together with the tongues, and a small quantity of beef suet, as good and by many considered better than if made of beef alone. For quite a large batch, boil the upper parts, not the jaws, of four heads, trimming off all the fat first, and cutting out the eyes and ears, also the tongues. When cooked very tender, with a fork pick in pieces the lean meat, peel and slice the tongues. Pare, core and chop enough cooking apples to fill a gallon crock full. Shred one-half a pound of beef suet and chop fine with the meat and apples; add one pound raisins (seeded and chopped); one-half pound dried currants; one-quarter pound candied citron cut in shreds; one teaspoon each of ground cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, or any other spice you like. Sweeten with brown sugar; pour over the mixture one-half gallon boiled cider. Place all in a large kettle, cook slowly till the fruit is soft, and the whole mass a rich brown color. If this mince meat is canned while hot and fresh, it will keep as long as any other canned fruit. You will find it very convenient to have it all ready for use.

BOY HELP.

Mrs. L. A. K., Moberly, Mo., writes: I want to suggest to some busy housewife where it is difficult to get women help, and especially during house cleaning, try a stout boy of about 16 years, and you will find him of more real service than a maid who is continually complaining. One day last Spring, my cook having just left at this important time, I decided to give one of my bedrooms its semi-annual cleaning, and with the assistance of a youth of 16 and a smaller house boy, by one o'clock we had our room finished. Dinner over, I then sent the boys to do some work about the yards, while I took an hour's rest on the sofa, from which I had to rise to entertain guests, who remained to tea; and such helps as those boys proved to be in getting that meal ready. Do not think I mean to run down female help, not a bit of it, for there are many kind and things to be done about a house that male help cannot, or should not, do; but I do say, for heavy work and in cases of emergency, bring the boy into the house.

SELECTING GIFTS.

Mrs. G. K. H., South Haven, Mich., says: If you intend giving Christmas or birthday gifts to your family or friends, a little consideration as to what would really add most to the comfort of the recipient would be advisable.

I know of one housekeeper who receives every year from her husband's relatives small pieces of glassware, till she has a handsome number of such things as salt-shakers and pickle-dishes, while she has taken the tacks from her carpets all the six years of her married life as best she could with an old file.

Now, a tack hammer may not be as sentimental in appearance as bird that hovers perpetually over the salt and pepper, but in house cleaning days one is tempted to wish that a transformation might take place.

Many consider that useful gifts are not in good taste, but when one's means are limited it is often the true kindness to give that which you see is needed rather than the ornamental, which, when the house is small and filled with little restless children, must be either put away out of sight or become an added care.

WISE RUTH.

Ruth writes: We have been taking your paper for a year. I like it very much; especially, since we women have a corner to ourselves. I have found many things both entertaining and useful in its columns. Though we farmers' wives do not have much leisure time, unless we just let our work go for a while and take some needed rest and recreation, I have many times had paper or book convenient, and while rocking baby to sleep rested and read a short time. If we live isolated from neighbors, and do not have much time to visit, we can be improving the moments improve our minds, that we may be better fitted to train our children. The little ones with minds just developing, the world all new to them, how many questions they do ask. Don't let us ever be too busy to answer them, the best we can, anyway. Never say "Don't bother me; I haven't time to answer questions. Let us keep the little ones near us while we may. They will grow up and go out into the world all too soon.

FROM A COUNTRY GIEL.

Cora Peterson, Winthrop, Iowa, writes: I think THE AMERICAN FARMER is a splendid paper, and so cheap, too. I am a farmer's daughter, 18 years of age, and have never lived in the city. We have raised over 200 chickens from about 30 hens last Summer, besides quite a number of turkeys.

SEVERAL FACTS.

Mrs. A. Beigher, Rockwell, Iowa, tells us if new hay is put in a pile of water, it has enough to cover the hay, in a room freshly painted, it will take all small away.

Salads are very good to keep kettles, where vegetables are boiled, free from acids. Vegetables never turn black if kettles are scoured with soda.

Kerosene will keep zinc bright. Apply a small amount on a wooden cloth after washing.

IT HAS HELPED HER.

Mrs. Josie Crowe, Valparaiso, Ind., writes: You do not know how much I am interested in this department and whole paper. I get so many helps and suggestions from the sisters, and it seems so neighborly to tell each other of the little helps. Now, I have tried a number of little things, as well as some of the recipes, and always found them good and handy, so I am especially interested in this department. I like the idea of giving us country women a voice in your valuable paper.

I am very grateful to the sister who suggested a tin box for a cutter for potatoes and apples, and find it very convenient, as also many other little things I have tried. I want to tell the sisters now of a very good and convenient way to make any kind of fruit butter without the heat and worry of standing over a hot stove to avoid its being scorched and spoiled. Simply place in earthen crocks or jars and bake in a moderate oven. Try this, sisters, and you will not try to do it any again. I wish some of the sisters would send a good recipe for making melon rind or citron sweet-pickle.

To Destroy Ants.

They may be kept from climbing by tying wool round the stems and stakes and putting pine tar on them. Trace to their haunts and pour boiling water on them. To drive from their haunts, dig the dirt and mix with gas lime. To kill them, pour over their nests at night a strong decoction of elder leaves or turn a flower-pot over with the hole stopped; the ants will build up into it and thousands may be destroyed.

"Brown's Bronchial Troches" relieve throat irritation and are of great use of the voice. The genuine sold only in boxes.

HANDSOME WOOL CASHMERE COSTUME.



No. 8001. Stylish cashmere suit, handsomely trimmed with revers of velvet, and collar and sleeves, all fashionable shades. This suit would cost you to make about \$12.00. We save you the time and bother of making it and give you a perfect fit, besides the latest improved style. This is an important point, which cannot be gained by patronizing a country dressmaker.

We send this handsome garment by express, need not pay charges, for only \$10.00. This is a bargain, which is only open to subscribers. THE AMERICAN FARMER, Washington, D. C.

LADIES' HEAVY CHEVIOT REEFER, BLUE AND BLACK.





The Physiology of Love.

Now that I've won the maiden's heart
The fact to me is clear—
To win her hand I'll have to try
To win her father's ear.

—Puck.

Labor-Saving Device.

Bridget (looking in the window)—
You're the new girl here; how do ye
loike yer place?



Delia—Sure it's 'oine! Look at the
labor-savin' inventions they do be havin'
to swape with!



Bridget (in her own domicile, cutting
swathe from the Persian rug)—An' that
macheen layin' in the yard the last
three weeks an' me not knowin' the use
uv it.



"I'll just take a quiet little hatch."



"Goodness gracious! Something's mov-
ing."



"Well, bless my Thanksgiving soul,
if I haven't been raising an ostrich!"—
Truth.

The Bottle of Bait.

He—Those men have not been fishing
long.
She—How do you know?
He—The bottle is quite full.—Yankee
Blade.

Our Length of Days.

Teacher—Now, Robbie, you may tell
us when the days are longest.
Robbie—When we have to carry coal
instead of goin' skatin'.

He was Like the Rest.

She was a handsome blonde, leading
a pet dog up Fifth avenue. An ex-
quisite masquerade smile a chimpanzee
smile as she passed the Windsor Hotel,
and said:
"Madam, I envy your dog."
"So do all the other puppies," was
her quick response, and he pulled up
his coat collar and took the nearest side
street.

THE ORCHARD.

Cullings.

An excellent quality of champagne is
made from pears in Florida.

It is believed that the English walnut
can be profitably grown anywhere
south of Mason and Dixon's Line.

The Kieffer is especially productive
and liable to set much more fruit than
it can bring to full size. Often they are
quite small, almost too small for market.
To make it a salable and profitable
market pear, it will need thorough
thinning.

There is hardly a farm on which there
are not more or less worthless fruit trees
which could be changed into desirable
ones by top grafting. Mark such trees
before it is forgotten, and prepare grafts
during the winter for setting on in the
spring.

Don't be in too great a hurry to dis-
pose of your fruit, and especially superi-
or apples. Those who have facilities
for keeping fruit can make a much larger
profit by holding their choice prod-
ucts for the higher prices that can be
obtained later in the season.

Florida oranges are a little late in
coloring this season, although most of
them will probably ripen about as usual
—during December. The fruit, how-
ever, is going forward at a lively rate
and tens of thousands of boxes are leav-
ing the State daily.

Apples are as plentiful and as cheap
on the Pacific coast as on the Atlantic
this fall. In Oregon, as in Maine, the
crop is so large the farmers are not
gathering the fruit, but allowing it to
drop and rot. It is worth too little to
make picking and packing profitable.

The Cornell University Experiment
Station has found that the dwarf cher-
ries now recommended and sparingly
grown for fruit are of three types—
the sand cherry of the Northeastern
States, the Western dwarf cherry of the
trans-Mississippi region, and the Utah
hybrid cherry.

The demand for chestnuts is grow-
ing so rapidly that the owner of a few
trees finds them quite an addition to
his income. It has been found that by
thinning out the forest and cultivating
the soil about the trees, giving each tree
30 feet of clear space, the size of the
nuts is more than trebled, while the
sweetness is increased.

Alkaline washes are often recom-
mended, especially for old apple and
pear trees. One of the best things that
can be done in this line, is to utilize the
weekly washing suds as a tree wash.
Throw the hot stuff by the painful high
up on the bodies of the trees, and note
what a good effect this will have the
next season.

The Anjou is usually classed as a
winter pear, but in Philadelphia and
south of it, it is ripe in October, and
cannot be kept until Christmas under
great care. Lawrence ripens, or com-
mences to do so, towards the close of
October, and can be kept until January
or February when it is stored away in a
cool place.

The sugar maple and the horse chest-
nut sometimes suffer from fungus attacks
of the leaves when grown in cities, and
especially the horse chestnut. This
drawback may be overcome by spraying
the trees with Bordeaux mixture, start-
ing as soon as the foliage has expanded
and keeping it up to the extent of some
three or four thorough sprayings during
the growing season.

According to the *Fruit Trade Journal*
and various papers, the apple crop is
turning out much better than at first re-
ported, even in New York State. Sar-
atoga County had a larger yield than in
years. One farmer sold his crop for
\$1,200 on the trees, estimating it at that
number of barrels. Another sold his
for \$1,500. About Syracuse the crop is
light, yet prices are low, buyers paying
\$1.40 to \$1.50 per barrel.

If blackberries and other fruit-bear-
ing shrubs are planted now it will save
time and labor in the busy spring.
Prune grapevines and currant bushes in
mild weather. If cuttings are desired
make at once, tie in bundles, label, and
bury in a dry place where they will not
freeze. Bend down the canes of tender
raspberries and cover with earth.
Strawberry beds should be protected
when it begins to freeze, with a covering
of straw, marsh hay, or cornstalks.

Fruit trees may yet be planted in
favorable localities and mild weather,
where the ground is not frozen. In cold
and exposed situations, however, it is
better to heel-in the trees and defer the
planting until early spring. Young
trees should have a mound of earth a
foot or more high drawn up around
their trunks. This will prevent injury
from heavy winds, and also keep away
mice and other rodents. Clean all long
grass and other rubbish from around
orchard fences, and it will materially
aid in saving the trees from being gir-
dled by vermin.

Japan Chestnuts.

A new kind of chestnut tree has been
imported from Japan, which is small
and occupies less room than our greater
native kind, and is more productive. A
model orchard of these trees, known as
the Paragon chestnut, yields 80 bushels
to the acre, each tree producing one and
a half bushels. As this nut sells for
about two or three times as much as
wheat, and the culture of the soil is not
one-fourth as much as for wheat, what
a bonanza is offered to the disgruntled
grower in this productive, valuable, and
most easily grown fruit.

Large numbers of rose plants raised in
Luxemburg, Germany, are shipped to
this country every year. New varieties
of this plant are there obtained by arti-
ficial fructification.

Tree Blight.

EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER: I
notice in the August number of THE
AMERICAN FARMER you say "twig
blight, affecting apple trees, has been
extraordinarily prevalent this season."
It is difficult to say what causes the mal-
ady. I must say I was surprised when I
saw that statement, as I supposed the
horticulturists had long ago informed the
people what it was that caused the
blight. I also noticed in the September
number of THE AMERICAN FARMER
another statement, from J. S. H.
Bowman's Bluff, N. C., answered by
Gerald McCarthy, Botanist, N. C., in
which he says there is no remedy ex-
cept the destruction of the affected
parts.

Now, I know nothing about these
great, big, long names for a very small
insect, but I do know that it is a very
small insect that does the mischief,
and if anyone will watch the leaves on
the young twigs, and as soon as they be-
gin to curl down from the point of the
leaf you may be sure the pest is there.
Now, if you wish to be convinced of what
it is that kills the twigs, just look on
the under side of the leaves that are
curled down (and look sharp, too, for
they will get away very quick), there
you will find the very small insect with
a great big name that does the mischief.
Two years ago I was talking with an
old gentleman, who belongs to the hor-
ticultural society here, about this matter,
and I asked him if he knew what it was.
He said he did not, but it was blight. I
told him I thought not. He said the
society had decided that it was. I asked
him if he had any trees affected. He said
he had. I told him if he would show me
a tree that was affected, I would show
him the cause. He said he did not think
I could.

So we went to his orchard and found
a tree with the leaves curled down, and
we turned several leaves before we found
anything, and he began to think I was
mistaken; but we soon found a number
of leaves that had them. But they are
so small, and so near the color of the
leaf, and they get away so quickly, that
a person has to look sharp and quick to
see them. And now for the remedy.
I have but a few trees. I took a piece
of gas-pipe two feet long and made a
squirrel-gun of it. Then I got some Lon-
don purple, and I put two teaspoonfuls
of it in about two-thirds of a tea-cupful
of water, and let it stand over night.
Then I put that into 16 gallons of
water, and let it stand about 24 hours,
stirring it several times. Then I took
my squirrel-gun and sprayed the trees,
shooting it up under the leaves as much
as possible. I have done this for three
years, and I think I am about rid of
the pest. I am confident that by fol-
lowing up this mode of treatment I can
do away with the so-called fire-blight.
The trees need to be sprayed as soon as
in leaf, also at intervals of about two
weeks during the season; but I would
not advise using the London purple in
greater strength than stated above.—
R. W., Rich Hill, Mo.

Apricot Growing.

The apricot is not nearly as exten-
sively grown in the United States as it
might be. This is owing to a general
impression of its delicacy, when in real-
ity it is as hardy as the peach and
thrives in the same locality and under
the same treatment.

There are several successful apricot
orchards in western New York, but in
order to arouse greater interest in the
fruit and stimulate its production the
Cornell Station has issued a bulletin, of
which the following are the most salient
points:

In growing apricots the chief difficul-
ties met with are a liability to injury
from late spring frosts, owing to its
habit of early bloom, and the curculio.
The former may be avoided by selecting
frostless localities, while the curculio
should be treated in the same way as in
plum or peach orchards.

The apricot is about as productive as
the peach, and the latter is the stock
most commonly used, though the plum
is also excellent. Of the three species of
apricots in cultivation in this section, the
black or purple apricot possesses little
merit and is not grown for market; the
Japanese or Chinese is also undesirable;
of the common apricot type the Russian
produces inferior fruit as compared with
the standard sorts.

The varieties of apricot most prized
for commercial planting in western New
York appear to be Smith's Early,
Harris, Early Moorpark, St. Ambrose,
Turkish (probably Roman), Montgamet,
Royal, and Moorpark. Varieties less
known, but very promising, are Luizet,
Jackson, Allison, and Eureka.

Look Out for Borers.

Now is the time to make a search for
the borers and eject them from the trees.
There are other pests that may be looked
after at the same time as the tent cater-
pillar, whose eggs may be found on the
twigs, ready for hatching in the spring.
These are to be looked for on those trees
where nests were made in the last
spring, and when found should be cut
off with the pruning shears and burned.

The borers, newly hatched, will not
have penetrated far into the stem and
may be found near the bottom, where the
dust made by the sharp teeth of the
larvae will be found. A little digging
with a small, sharp gouge will bring the
grubs to light and thus prevent a whole
winter's damage by the insects in boring
further into the trees.

A State Flower.
The Vermont Legislature has passed
a bill designating the "red clover" as
the State flower. The vote taken
throughout the State resulted as follows:
Whole vote cast, 17,611; red clover re-
ceived, 9,572; daisy, 2,567; buttercup,
945; scattering, 4,525. The clover was
selected on the ground that it is indigen-
ous, fragrant, and most useful.

It is safe to say that there is no soil
which will not be better for judicious
manuring.

PEACHES IN BELGIUM.

The Art of Raising Them has been
Highly Developed.

The United States Consul at Liege, in
his last report, says that the Kingdom of
Belgium, after supplying a population of
500 to the square mile, exports 105,-
000,000 pounds of fruit. Last year the
markets were glutted, and the value of
foreign shipments rose to about £600,-
000. A very large proportion of the
fruit shipped consisted of peaches, and
of the finest varieties. In fine soil, and
in situations protected from the north
and northeast winds, peach trees, grown
from the seed, have occasionally borne
fruit; but to ascertain the best stock
upon which to build, a long series of ex-
periments were tried and tried again
upon all the varieties of prune, apricot,
sweet and bitter almonds—every tree,
indeed, of a kindred nature—till the
conclusion was reached that the best
stem for grafting is the red plum. This
hardy plant, whose roots spread wide
and strike deep, imparts much of its own
vitality to its foster scions. Grafting or
budding is done out of doors, so as not
to soften the young tree by acustoming
it to unnatural conditions. The next
question to be considered was that of
soil. In sandy and dry earth it was
found that neither the plant nor the
peach flourished, the one being spindling
and the other small; while in rich and
moist alluvial soil the tree prospered at
the expense of the fruit. A calcareous
soil, neither wet nor dry, is preferred by
the peach, the young trees requiring a
great deal of lime. As it is impossible
to tell, without chemical analysis, the
exact amount of this element contained
in any given quantity of earth, its
application must be more or less experi-
mental. The rule in Belgium is to first
thoroughly fertilize the soil with
manure, and then, after planting the
tree, to add a peck of lime to every
cubic yard of earth, placing it near the
surface. As it is necessary to loosen
the earth for at least six feet square and
three feet deep, this quantity—a bushel
to a tree—may seem large, but the
authorities are all agreed that more
rather than less would be better. The
application should be repeated every
three years. Turning from the standard
tree, which too often failed to be profit-
able, Belgian agriculturists experimented
with espaliers, or wooden railings,
but these were found to be so open and
exposed that the young trees fared very
little better upon them than in the
orchard. They next tried the wall, not
as in some countries where mural in-
closures are built at great expense for
the special protection of delicate fruit,
but the sunny sides of their houses, and
this met with such astonishing success
that there are few houses to-day in
Belgium upon whose southern exposed
sides trees are not trained. No chateau
is too grand, and no cottage too humble,
to furnish them protection and support.

Consul Smith says that last summer
he saw ripening upon the gable end of a
town house, a surface of about 30 feet
square, over 2,300 peaches, and every
one of them larger than a hen's egg.
There were four trees, two of them with
dwarf stems, not more than 12 inches
high, and branches six feet long, radiat-
ing like the ribs of a fan, and two
"riders," or bushes grafted upon tall
stocks, whose boughs began to spread
where the others terminated. At the
time of flowering, it is always necessary
to shield the buds from the action of
frost, and this is done by various methods,
the best of which experience has shown
to be the placing, among the upper
boughs of the trees, of branches cut from
other green trees. This plan has been
attended by good results, though it should
be employed with great caution, as too
much shade is apt to stifle the germs, by
excluding the rays of the sun. Another
method, until recently very much in
vogue, and always effective, is the em-
ployment of mosquito netting, or other
cheap material with meshes large enough
to admit the free passage of light and air.
The old custom of using closely-woven
cloth, like table or bed linen, at night,
and removing it in the morning, is said
to be more dangerous than the frost
itself, as the trees at this season cannot
be deprived of air without serious injury.
In addition, this artificial heat at night,
succeeded by the warmth of the sun,
hastens their blooming, when the object is
to delay it as long as possible. Shading
at noon is sometimes as essential as cov-
ering at night. The poor succeed very
well in protecting their fruit, by placing
a number of horizontal poles about 18
inches apart, and from four to six inches
from the trees, and covering them with
light wisps of straw. In good situations,
penthouses will sometimes suffice to pro-
tect the fruit; in any case, they are ex-
tremely useful in checking the flow of
sap. Since 1876, the following addition
to this method has made assurance
doubly sure: A fringe, made of un-
thrashed rye straw, by tying the cut ends
of the stalk together with twine or cord,
six or eight in a loop, with spaces of
about three inches between the wisps, is
attached to a pole and suspended under
the eaves of the penthouse and in front
of the trees. The texture being open, it
does not prevent the light and air from
reaching the buds. These shields are
usually placed in position about the 1st
of March, and are not removed, except
in cloudy weather, until all danger from
frost has passed.

Absorption of Odors by Milk.

Parville relates some interesting facts
upon this subject. If a can of milk is
placed near an open vessel containing
turpentine, the smell of turpentine is soon
communicated to the milk. The same
result occurs as regards tobacco, paraffin,
sassafras, camphor, and many other
strong-smelling substances. Milk should
also be kept at a distance from every
volatile substance, and milk which has
stood in sick-chambers should never be
drunk. The power of milk to disguise
the taste of drugs—as potassium iodide,
opium, salicylate, etc.—is well known.

Not His Way.

Tramp—About a year ago I came by
and you gave me an old vest. You
may not know it, madam, but there was
a \$5 bill in that vest.

Lady of the House—Merry! Have
you brought it back?

Tramp—Not much! I've come for
another vest.—Clothes and Furnisher.

THE DAIRY.

Skimmings.

The freezing of cream changes the
texture and the color of it. Good butter
cannot be made of it, although by mix-
ing it with fresh cream just skimmed it
may be improved considerably. It may
also be improved by heating it to 170°
as soon as possible after freezing, and
then setting it for the remaining cream
to rise on the milk.

White specks in butter may be caused
by the feeding of the cows, as well as by
the excessive sourness of the milk. But
it is hardly avoidable when the milk is
kept too cold and the cream is warmed
in the manner so common—that is, by
setting the cream jar near a stove or in
hot water to get warm enough for churning.
The heat curdles the sour milk, or
hardens any albumen in the cream, and
flakes form that appear in the butter.

If the temperature of the room where
the churning is done is too low, the cream
in the churn will be cooled too much,
and it may be that the butter will not
come. This is often the reason for this
kind of failure. The cause of the cooling
is that the churning draws air into the
churn, and the motion of it through the
cold air as well cools the cream
rapidly, so that, if the cream is at 65° at
the beginning, it will be 10° less at the
finish. Then trouble happens through the
excess of cold.

To make money out of a dairy, paper
and pencil are constantly necessary. The
cost of feeding an average cow
varies from 10 to 15 cents a day, or \$20
for a winter and not less than \$10 for a
summer. At 15 cents a pound for
butter, the cow must give 200 pounds of
butter in the year, which is far more
than the average. Thus, on the average,
cows are kept at a loss. For profit, it is
indispensable that every cow shall give
250 pounds of butter in a year and be
fed for not more than \$15 a year. And
this may be done by the use of a silo,
but in no other way, except by soiling
under exceptionally favorable circum-
stances.

A high color cannot be fed into milk
by giving carrots to the cow. As the
butter is a fat, it will not mix readily
with any other substance than fat or oil,
and hence the best way to give a desired
yellow color to the butter is to add some
oil colored by whatever pigment may be
dissolved in it. An excellent coloring
is made by adding the dark-red leaves
of saffron flowers or of marigolds to the
finest olive oil, and thus producing a red
coloring, which is a fine yellow when
added to the cream in the right quantity,
which is one teaspoonful to 20 gallons of
cream. This yellow, however, is seen
only in the butter, with which the oil
with the color combines.

Cost of Ensilage.

Mr. D. M. McPherson, of Ontario,
who is one of the most noted of Canadian
dairymen, has a farm of 120 acres, and
supports on that farm 70 head of cows
and four horses. Last year he put up
700 tons of ensilage and gives the fol-
lowing interesting figures of the cost of
same: Plowing, cultivation, seed, etc.,
\$180, or \$4.50 per acre. Cost of harvest-
ing, \$262.90. Total cost, \$443. Forty
acres were employed, making the total
cost per acre \$11.07, and per ton 63
cents. The rent of land, or what is the
same, the interest on the land value, is
not reckoned.

The cost of cutting corn was double
what it should have been, owing to the
ravages of a severe storm. The ensi-
lage fed 140 head of cows and fattening
cattle 210 days at the rate of 50 pounds
a day.

Absorption of Odors by Milk.

Parville relates some interesting facts
upon this subject. If a can of milk is
placed near an open vessel containing
turpentine, the smell of turpentine is soon
communicated to the milk. The same
result occurs as regards tobacco, paraffin,
sassafras, camphor, and many other
strong-smelling substances. Milk should
also be kept at a distance from every
volatile substance, and milk which has
stood in sick-chambers should never be
drunk. The power of milk to disguise
the taste of drugs—as potassium iodide,
opium, salicylate, etc.—is well known.

Not His Way.

Tramp—About a year ago I came by
and you gave me an old vest. You
may not know it, madam, but there was
a \$5 bill in that vest.

Lady of the House—Merry! Have
you brought it back?

Tramp—Not much! I've come for
another vest.—Clothes and Furnisher.

A CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY.
I have had wonderful success selling Dish
Washers. Have not made less than \$8 a day,
and some days \$15. Nearly every family buys
one. They are cheap, durable, and do the work
of a family in two minutes, without touching
hands to a dish. I believe any lady or gentle-
man, anywhere, can do as well as I am doing,
as I had no experience. Anyone can sell what
everyone wants to buy, and every family seems
to want a Dish Washer. Write to the Iron City
Dish Washer Co., E. E. Pittsburg, Pa. They
will send you full particulars and help you
as they did me. I do not write my experience
boastfully, but because I think it a duty I owe
to others in these hard times.

MARTHA B.

Are you satisfied with your
COMPLEXION?

If you would improve it, send for our Imperial
Talcum Powder. Scientific, healing, beautifying,
for all roughness, chapping, blotches, impuri-
ties of the skin. Wonderful in its effect. A single
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1810 N. W. Washington, D. C.

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HOLD OUTS

MONEY FOR EVERYONE!
I can't understand why people complain of
hard times, when any woman or man can
make from \$5 to \$10 a day easily. All have
heard of the wonderful success of the Climax
Dish Washer; yet we are apt to think we
can't make money selling it; but anyone
can make money, because every family
wants one. I made \$27.35 in the last three
months, after paying all expenses, and at-
tended to my regular business besides. You
don't have to canvass; as soon as people
know you have it for sale they send for a
Dish Washer. Address the Climax Mfg. Co.,
Columbus, Ohio, for particulars. Go to work
at once, and you will very soon have a full
pocket book and a light heart. I think it a
duty to inform each other of such opportu-
nities, and I also think it a duty to improve
them while we may. Try it at once, and
publish your experience so others may be
benefited.

14 KARAT GOLD PLATE
GIVE THIS OUT and send it to us
with your name and address and we
will send you a beautiful gold watch
for examination. A guarantee
of \$100.00. If you do not like it
return it and we will refund the
amount. A bargain pay for your money.
It is beautifully engraved and
keeps in the world for the longest
time. Write at once for a free
offer. This offer will not appear
again.

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& IMPORTING CO.,
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